

PINOAK



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KINDERGARTEN

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WELCOME DRINKS- Save the Date

to think
to dare
to dream

Oxley College
extends a warm invitation
to all parents
to
Welcome Drinks
Thursday 28 April
Kindergarten to Year 4: 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Year 7 to Year 9: 7.00pm -8.30pm
[Please RSVP here](#)

Friday 29 April
Year 5 & Year 6: 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Year 10 to Year 12: 7.00pm - 8.30pm
[Please RSVP here](#)
by Friday 22 April

CONCERT



Australian Brass Quintet
Acacia Quartet
Andrea Lam
Ensemble Offspring
Bel a cappella
Simon Nieminski
James Flores
Highlands Music Collective



www.bamf.org.au



St Jude's Music Association
presents a celebration of
glorious live music by some of
Australia's finest artists

24-27 March
2022
www.bamf.org.au

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



There are many famous quotations about change, but they mostly agree with Heraclitus the Greek philosopher: There is nothing permanent except change.

In our Covid-adapting world, this seems truer than ever. In fact, the unusual and the unexpected have become almost expected.

At Oxley, we have had our share of unexpected change in the past few weeks. Once in a generation rain and flooding was managed with a high level of professionalism and adaptability by our school leadership and staff. The Board would like to thank all staff, students and parents for your calm, patience and understanding during this extraordinary weather.

After the flooding, the sun finally came out and the school farewelled Mrs Ethell. It was a wonderfully organised day, and a true celebration of all that Mrs Ethell has brought to the school. It was very fitting that Mrs Ethell was honoured with a school 'tunnel', giving her the chance to connect with every child in the school, all of whom have benefitted from her leadership (and who enjoyed the cake on her last day)! The Board wishes Mrs Ethell a safe and happy transition from Bowral to Western Australia.

Last Monday, Mrs Cunich stepped in as Acting Head of College, ably managing the many challenges of leadership – including how best to support students impacted by flooding and road closures.

On the same day, Mrs Cunich, the Executive and I also welcomed Dr Mulford for a lunch and a chance to get to know the leadership team. Dr Mulford then enjoyed a tour of the school and a session with the staff at the end of the day. His message of support and encouragement for the staff and the school was well received. "I am here to provide support for the staff and students, to assist with the recruitment of the next Head of College and to work with the Board and the Executive on Strategic Planning and the building Masterplan. This will keep these projects progressing and ensure they are in good shape for the next Head of College to finalise and implement".

Dr Mulford will be joining the school as Interim Head of College from Wednesday 30 March. There will be a range of opportunities to get to know him, including Welcome Drinks planned for early Term 2.

Dr David Mulford is a very experienced and well regarded school leader. He was principal for 27 years at three independent schools, including Blue Mountains Grammar (1992-2000), Radford College ACT (2001-2008), which are both regional coeducational Early Learning Centre to Year 12 day schools. He was also Headmaster at Newington College (2009-2018), a large city boys' school. Dr Mulford has a Doctorate of Education and his teaching background includes economics, philosophy, and studies of religion.

He is married with three adult children, all of whom are in creative fields (a Designer, an Art Curator and an

Architect). His wife Judy is an Interior Designer and has owned and worked in a number of art galleries.

Since retiring at the end of 2018 Dr Mulford has conducted leadership mentoring across Australian independent schools, lectured at universities, and has been involved with several social justice initiatives. He serves on the Boards of MLC Sydney and Tupou College Tonga.

Last Saturday 19 March, the position of Head of College was advertised and we expect a strong candidature given Oxley's strong reputation, its liberal education and its location in the beautiful Southern Highlands. The focus of the selection committee will be to ensure that the work of all our previous Heads is built upon, and that the next Head of College is the right fit for the ethos and spirit of Oxley, working with the whole community to strengthen and enhance all that is special about this school we love.

To assist with this selection, and with Masterplanning and Strategic planning, you will have received the AIS Perspectives Survey. We encourage you to submit this, as your views are essential in informing this planning. The Board also met with staff this week to hear their views on what should inform selection of the next leader for our school.

With all of this change, I also reflect that some things do not change. Oxley continues to be a special place that focuses on a broad and culturally rich education, that values inclusion and excellence and supports each student to fulfil their potential.

I look forward to keeping you updated as we move into the rest of 2022.

By Dr Stephen Barnett, Chairman of the Board of Governors



Dr Mulford

ACTING HEAD OF COLLEGE



It is with a sense of great privilege that I write this Pin Oak as Acting Head of College. I imagine that there are many new families who may not know me, or who I am, or perhaps only recognise my name as the overly excited person at Junior Assembly on Friday mornings, or as the gowned figure presenting academic prizes at Speech Night.

So I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you the “why” behind me sitting in this chair for just a little while. I love this wonderful school of ours, and I sometimes think that I’m like the Pin Oak tree on Elvo lawn. The tree and I have weathered storms together, and as the seasons pass, we have both grown and evolved just as Oxley has flourished. The leaves may be falling off the Pin Oak now (here comes

Autumn) just as my wrinkles are becoming deeper, but the thing that keeps us grounded in the soil of Oxley remains the same – the heart of this place is built on the firmest of foundations, on the dreams of our pioneers and our commitment to think deeply about the biggest of ideas, no matter what.

Oxley is a place for growth for all – no year is ever the same as the one before. Personally, I have been blessed to have grown here as Head of Department, Head of House, Director of Co-curricular and then when the opportunity arose, to win the hard-fought role of Deputy Head Academic. As part of that shared journey in researching what works best in schools, we’ve seen Oxley recognised internationally numerous times. Our chapter in *Visible Learning in Action: International Case Studies of Impact* continues to be sold into multiple languages. We’ve had teachers present around the world, with a particular highlight being Mr Parker and I presenting in Washington DC to educators keen to unpack what made us as a small, regional K-12 school so special. We’ve been interviewed by the *Financial Times*, used as a case study on Feedback by AISTL, quoted as an exemplar school by Professor John Hattie and count renowned international educators such as James Nottingham and Sarah Martin as critical friends.

So at this time of change, there is much to anchor us a school. We know who we are, what we are proud of, and now it is time to chart the future directions of the College as we prepare to turn 40 years old! The AIS Perspectives survey is a very important tool that we will use in our Strategic Planning sessions next term, so I would encourage you if you have not already, to take the time to answer the questions that will give us the information we need to inform our next steps.

After much planning, we are delighted too that Year 10 students have been able to attend their Rites of Passage experience in Sydney this week. While there has had to be much work behind the scenes around protocols, Plan B’s and C’s, the essence of this trip remains the same. We introduced ROP with intention: we wanted our students in their middle years of senior school to get inspired, to think outside the square, to learn more about themselves and others by “doing”, and most of all, to experience multiples moments that would help them learn for life, for keeps.

There has been a lot going on here too. You may have noted in the press the announcement about NAPLAN in 2023. The Minister is keen that schools receive their results earlier, so that this assessment does become the diagnostic tool it was designed to be. We have tested our online capacity this week with Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 participating in practice tests ahead of the formal assessment in May. Year 12 students have also been honing their examination skills in the traditional sense – black pen on paper for three hours - after not being able to do this during Year 11. We are encouraged by their dedication and conscientious approach.

So, as I watched Kindergarten already able to line up and wait for their teacher in total silence yesterday, as I joined in “Just Dance” with Year 11 boys under the Pin Oak today at recess, I was filled with optimism about this place. I look forward to welcoming Dr Mulford next week as together we have the chance to show him just how special the Oxley community is in 2022.

By Kate Cunich, Acting Head of College



HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 10 Rites of Passage – Sydney

Despite the significant challenges posed by COVID-19, Year 10 students departed for Sydney on 'Rites of Passage' on Monday morning, under the leadership of Director of Students, Ms Genevieve Whiteley. (Thank you to Dougall Ethell for the huge amount of planning behind the scenes). It has been a significant logistical challenge to navigate the varying requirements of the different venues on the trip, as well as ensuring our compliance with the Public Health Order – in addition to managing the largest group we have ever taken on Rites of Passage. We are very appreciative of parents' understanding and support in these challenging times, without which we would not be able to provide this fantastic programme.

On their first day, students learned how to navigate their way around the city on trains, buses and ferries in the 'Scavenger Hunt'. During the week students have participated in workshops at the Sydney Jewish Museum, the Belvoir Theatre, Academy of Music and Performing Arts and the Museum of Human Disease at UNSW, as well as a walking tour of the city to learn about the history and culture of the Gadigal people, exploration of Cockatoo Island and tours of the Australian Museum and Powerhouse Museum. Students attended the production of 'North by North West' at the Lyric Theatre and experienced a taste of life at university, with tours and workshops at Sydney University, Notre Dame University and UTS. The photos in this edition of Pin Oak tell their own story!

COVID-19 Protocols: Activities and Excursions

If we have all had enough of dealing with COVID protocols, I have certainly had enough of writing about them! I would, though, like to thank parents for their understanding of the challenges that the College is facing in managing the constantly changing situation in which we find ourselves.



This week, the NSW Government have published updated self-isolation guidelines that affect people who are household contacts. One of these changes is that a household contact does not need to repeat their period of self-isolation if another person in the household tests positive in the 14 days after they have finished their seven day period of isolation. NSW Health have also published a table to assist people in self-identifying the level of risk of exposure. For more information see Information for People Exposed to COVID-19.



Whilst we must of course abide by Public Health Orders (PHOs), as an independent school we are not bound by the same requirements as issued by the NSW Department of Education. This flexibility has its advantages, but it means that there will be some members of our community who feel that we need a more conservative approach in the light of Omicron BA.2, such as the compulsory wearing of face masks, as well as those who believe that we need to be more liberal.

As a member of the Association of Independent Schools, we follow their guidance in this area: "Schools continue to be able to choose to re-introduce additional COVID-smart measures for a period of time as determined by the school. Schools may choose to reintroduce risk mitigation measures to minimise disruption to face-to-face learning, reduce possible in-school transmission of COVID-19 and promote health and safety for a short period of time to minimise risk."¹

In line with this advice, we will continue to monitor community case numbers closely and review our current settings. At present we recommend the wearing of face masks in indoor settings and require door and windows to be open to maximise ventilation in classrooms. For events, activities and excursions we apply a COVID-19 lens, with parents giving informed consent for the measures that we put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and ensure we comply with the PHO; parents with children attending Rites of Passage, Outback and the upcoming service trips in April will be familiar with some of these and such measures will likely continue for the foreseeable future. It is our desire, with the support of parents, to continue to provide these outstanding educational and life experiences in as safe a way as we can.

1 COVID-19 Advice for NSW Independent Schools, AISNSW, updated 25.03.22.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School





Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Matilda Wolstencroft
Yr 1: Freddie Paterson
Yr 2: Charlotte Bullick
Yr 3B: Angus Sheer
Yr 3R: Stella Bacon
Yr 4A: Sophie Henderson
Yr 4W: Darcy Jones
Yr 5M: William Kean
Yr 5N: Andy Clothier
Yr 6H: Will Kennedy
Yr 6S: Harry Voss

Oxley Values

K: Bella Horne
Yr 1: Alessia Sicari
Yr 2: Finn Kean
Yr 3B: Lexie Seehusen
Yr 3R: Hudson Ahern
Yr 4A: Oscar Jones
Yr 4W: Archie Adams
Yr 5M: Ava Snowden
Yr 5N: Isabella Sicari
Yr 6H: Scarlett Miller
Yr 6S: Xavier Druer

Excellence in STEM

Angus Kean
Charlie Officer

Excellence in ART

Angus Kean
Charlie Officer
Clementine Blom
Thomas Adamson
Oliver Johnson
Leo Rodgers

Learning Journey

Learning Journey
K: Isaac Choo
Yr 1: George Kindred
Yr 2: Esther Saviana
Yr 3B: Amelia Gordon
Yr 3R: Luella Sewell
Yr 4A: Clementine Paterson
Yr 4W: Ian Phillips
Yr 5M: Arthur Pemberton
Yr 5N: Oscar Le Guay
Yr 6H: Ethan Smith
Yr 6S: Livie Marks

Oxley Values

K: Georgia Hurst
Yr 1: Clara Peebles
Yr 2: Lachlan Sutherland
Yr 3B: Lilly Mansour
Yr 3R: Albert Herrmann
Yr 4A: Charlie Officer
Yr 4W: Harvey Talbot
Yr 5M: Thomas Berry
Yr 5N: Teddy Blom
Yr 6H: Phoebe Keith
Yr 6S: Max Steyn

Excellence in Japanese

Clara Peebles
Angus Kean



HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

For many children, the challenges of school life can take a heavy toll. Between academic expectations and social pressures, students can find themselves struggling with feelings of loneliness and anxiety. Here at Oxley, we use our buddy system to foster student collaboration and community.

Students from different grades buddy up in a variety of ways to promote self-esteem, self-efficacy, and promote a more tolerant and inclusive culture.

In turn, these collaborations can help older students looking to gain a sense of purpose within the student community. The students see themselves as part of our wider school culture and making a difference for others. It's a win-win.

Last week, at our K-2 Splash and Dash, our Year 6 Buddies were simply amazing in the way that they looked after and encouraged our youngest students. We also held auditions for our Junior Production and again, older students were working with and alongside younger students – we have some amazing talent in our Junior School!

Every day, in the playground, we see students interacting with each other in a positive and caring nature – checking in and connecting!

As adults, we too, enjoy connecting and our Parent Teacher sessions this week are a wonderful check in to see how students are engaging in their learning and settling back into school life. These short chats are a great way for parents and teachers to collaboratively support and participate in their child's learning journey.

Two weeks to go and we have so much more to fit in before we can enjoy a holiday! Year 5 and 6 students go to Bathurst and Canberra, K-2 are off to visit our Grandfriends at Harbison, House singing, Grandparents' Day and lots of fun and creative in-class activities!

And congratulations to our Public Speaking Finalists who spoke at today's assembly: Chisholm - Clementine Blom, Clara Hardwick-Jones and Orson Francis; Flynn - Amelia Gaunt, Angus Kean and Ed Hunt; Walton - Naomi Robertson, Leo Le Guay and Pixie Hanson. The winners were: Stage 1 - Amelia Gaunt, Stage 2 - Clara Hardwick-Jones, Stage 3 - Orson Francis. The winner of the Junior School Public Speaking House Cup was Chisholm.

Please enjoy the snapshots of concentration, smiles and fun in our Junior School Gallery and also this great happy photo of Kindergarten!

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School



JUNIOR GALLERY



THE EVOLUTION OF GODZILLA

Who doesn't love a giant nuclear-fire breathing monster! The classic titan, Godzilla, has stomped his way through many monster-lovers' hearts, invading comic books and movies, even boasting honorary statues throughout Japan. But how has Godzilla changed over the ages? This article will answer all of your burning Godzilla questions and warning, may contain a few spoilers!

Now many of you may be wondering, "Why write about Godzilla?" Why not someone more interesting like Luke Skywalker, Master Chief or even Ponyo? (Okay, maybe not Ponyo). Why not chose a different topic? Well, it's because post World War II, the Japanese were in a state of disarray. Godzilla represents the anguish and anxiety of the Japanese people. He is also seen as a symbol and a distinct warning against nuclear weapons. The Americans initially erased that clear message and changed Godzilla into a movie franchise. Now, not many people know that Godzilla was a herald, only seeing him as a giant monster who makes a really cool sound when he's about to eviscerate an enemy and spectacularly destroy a city with blow torch fire breath and brilliant blue atomic lasers.

Godzilla was officially created in 1954, nine years after the Americans initiated the nuclear bombing events in Japan. People were suffering in horrendous ways, with little opportunity to express the country's new found fear of nuclear war and radiation. Journalists began to try and express their opinions on the nuclear bombing, but they gained little influence due to America's heavy censoring of propaganda. That all changed when the tuna fishing boat, Daigo Fukuryu Maru – Lucky Dragon No. 5, decided to alter its course to Bikini Atoll, an island famous for America's nuclear testing, on 1st March 1954. When the US dropped the infamous bomb "Castle Bravo" Lucky Dragon No.5 was irradiated, resulting in the severe radiation sickness of its 23 crew members. (This Pin Oak article marks the 68th anniversary of that horrible disaster). Unsurprisingly, this sparked numerous anti-nuclear protests, and inevitably birthed the legend itself, Gojira, who was destined to be a cornerstone of film and popular culture.

Eight months after the incident, Gojira (which translates to Gorilla Whale in Japanese) hit the Japanese cinemas, opening with a scene that many Japanese remembered all too well. Gojira was seen as not only a symbol of nuclear bombing, but also a victim. To quote film director Ishiro Honda "I took the characteristics of a nuclear bomb and applied them to Gojira." Gojira's skin was textured to resemble the keloid scars of Hiroshima bomb survivors. Armed with atomic fire breath, superhuman endurance and the ability to lay waste to entire cities, Gojira quickly became a well-known icon in Japanese society. With scenes showing people dying from radiation sickness, this film slipped under the nose of American censorship, hitting home the devastating and horrific effects of atomic bombs. The underlying message presented in the Gojira film acted as a harbinger of what would come if nuclear weapons were unleashed freely across the world.

Subsequently, when America saw the movie, they thought it was a good idea to buy the distribution rights, bring American actors onto the scene and rename Gojira "Godzilla, King of the Monsters!" The Godzilla films became a hit in the US film industry. However, the clear warning of the movie 'Gojira' was changed to a rather un-inspiring spectacle with actors wrestling in rubber dinosaur suits (even though, I have to say, the infamous wrestling match in 'Godzilla Raids Again' between Anguirus and Godzilla is hilarious). There are now over 36 movies in total, with more than a few spin offs. Godzilla has conquered the film universe in vivid and explosive detail.

In addition to Godzilla's classic form, there are more than a few variations, from the T-rex like 'Zilla' to the nightmarish Shin Godzilla, each unique, awesome and terrifying. Heck, there is even SpaceGodzilla! The most recent is the famous MonsterVerse Godzilla, firing blue atomic breath and currently the most popular. Depicted as the King of the Monsters and protector of the Earth. In earlier films, there are also evil contrasts to this Godzilla. Shin Godzilla and SpaceGodzilla are examples of how the character has been turned into a villain. There are some forms of Godzilla, such as the T-rex like Zilla, that just reflect the animalistic nature of the beast. No matter if the Godzilla is good, evil or even a robot, all of them are equally awesome. Many people have different opinions on whether Godzilla is a good guy or a bad guy. Or as is the case with the 1998 film Godzilla, starring Mathew Broderick, is Godzilla even a guy? In this film, Godzilla just wants to find a place to eat fish and lay some eggs. Unfortunately that place just happens to be in New York's Madison Square Garden...

As well as his multiple forms, there are many different variations of Godzilla's emergence. In the 1954 film, he was an ancient prehistoric reptile that was caught in the radioactive fallout range of a nuclear bomb. In the 1998 film, he was a mutated iguana. In 2016 he was a mutated eel creature. There is only one Godzilla origin story which doesn't involve mutation. In the 2014 movie 'Godzilla' he was an ancient species that had already lived on Earth for thousands of years. Besides that, the main origin helps support the original movie's former message regarding nuclear fallout and its tragic consequences.

Fun fact: There is a two foot tall Godzilla statue in Tokyo, an odd contrast to the goliath we see on television!

There is another burning question that many of you are probably asking, how do you kill Godzilla? Godzilla is a very hard force to stop but has been successfully killed in a few movies. In Godzilla 1954, Godzilla falls victim to an oxygen bomb, leaving him unable to breathe and, sadly, he perishes. The 1998 Godzilla was killed by extensive missile strikes and though not technically dead, Shin Godzilla stands frozen by liquid nitrogen sprayed all over him by fire trucks! Everyone knows not to mess with the fire brigade!

Now let's talk about the highlight of Godzilla's cinematic existence. Cue the whirring and radioactive throbbing as Godzilla revs up his atomic laser breath. Godzilla's nuclear breath weapon designs have changed dramatically over the years. In the original Godzilla movies, the visual effects of Godzilla's nuclear fire blast have changed from a fire extinguisher inside his mouth to amazing electronic visual effects. Godzilla's powers have differed from film to film; however I believe that the most powerful is Shin Godzilla. Capable of exhaling a flammable gas and igniting it. It also has the ability to shoot high intensity lasers from its mouth, dorsal fins and tail!

The Godzilla franchise has gone through four major periods. Showa, Heisei, Millennium and Reiwa. The Showa period (1954-1975) was the beginning of the Godzilla movies, progressively developing a radical change in Godzilla's behaviour. In the first few movies he was basically a mindless destroyer, but over this period Godzilla's personality dramatically changed, people started to see him more as a hero than a mindless animal. This era also introduced new monsters such as Mothra and Anguirus, bringing new challenge to Godzilla. I personally call this age, 'the age of rubber dinosaur suits.' To be fair, these were the young years of the Godzilla franchise; this was the beginning of greatness for Godzilla.



The Heisei period, which started 10 years after the Showa, introduced new visual effects and Godzilla's son? This unexpected twist, which appeared in 1967, saw Godzilla's adoptive son reveal a brand new side to Godzilla. Godzilla was... caring. (I know, EEWWW) Putting aside that disturbing thought, the Heisei period movies were set after the original Godzilla 1954. This era showcased a bunch of new monsters such as SpaceGodzilla, who almost vanquished the original Godzilla, ultimately bringing this to period fame!

The Millennium period was probably the most surprising of the Godzilla eras. The infamous 1998 movie 'Godzilla' converted Godzilla from a hero back to an animal again. This was an unexpected move for Toho studios. This era produced many random Godzilla movies, all scrabbled in sequence, lacking a timeline of any sort. This time was entertaining though and produced amazing movies!

And finally the latest period, the Reiwa, which we are going through now. Bringing forth Shin Godzilla an evolving monster straight out of your nightmares and many anime series. And the latest Godzilla, Monster Verse Godzilla, who has magnificently entertained us by beating up our favourite monster primate, King Kong (If you haven't watched the movie Godzilla vs Kong, you'll never guess who wins!)

These major periods helped shape the way we see Godzilla today (and given me a few nightmares as well, thanks a lot Shin Godzilla with his dislocating lower jaw, evil eyes and glowing red lava infused body).

Along with the evolution of Godzilla, his enemies have also evolved. The first ever enemy to face Godzilla was Anguirus (imagine a giant mutated ankylosaur), who later became his ally. As more films developed so did the wave after wave of enemies as they tested their metal against Godzilla... literally! Humans often created giant monsters, such as Mogura and MechaGodzilla to take down Godzilla. However, they always seem to fail. The only two creatures that have ever truly posed a true challenge to Godzilla is SpaceGodzilla and Ghidorah. SpaceGodzilla was created when somehow, particles from the original Godzilla, got into space and created a crystallised monstrosity. It nearly killed Godzilla himself, but Godzilla defeated him. Godzilla's arch nemesis however is none other than... Ghidorah – the grotesque three headed dragon from outer space. Ghidorah has faced Godzilla many times, nearly all of them Godzilla wins but Ghidorah always manages to come back. That was until 2019's Godzilla King Of The Monsters when

Ghidorah was totally incinerated.

Despite all known possible theories, there is one city that just can't be left alone to live in peace - Tokyo. Strangely enough Godzilla has stomped Tokyo's cars, mowed down entire buildings with high intensity nuclear fire breath and even shot lasers out of his dorsal fins onto all incoming offensive air traffic! But why always attack Tokyo? (I mean Las Vegas would be a nice change, oh wait, the female insectoid MUTO got to it first in 'Godzilla 2014'). Well the reason for that may be either that Godzilla is drawn to the nuclear power plants located there so he can feed off the radiation or Toho industries wants to keep Godzilla attacking Japan to remind the viewer of Godzilla's original message regarding the effects of nuclear warfare. It is interesting that the Americans originally awoke Godzilla in the original movie...

Everyone who has seen a Godzilla movie often takes home a different message. For example:

"I don't know, he represents nature or something."

"Stay away from giant lizards."

"I don't know, I've never seen the Godzilla movies!"

Godzilla represents a force of nature, a clear warning "Don't mess with nature, or else nature will send a giant lizard and a bunch of monsters to stomp your cities flat." There is even a movie called 'Godzilla vs Hedorah.' Hedorah is literally a monster made of pollution. Even though the main message has changed since the 1954 Godzilla movie, it still is a valuable reminder to leave nature and flourishing life alone.

Godzilla is a standing icon in popular culture. He helped with the mental aftershocks of the Hiroshima bombing, entertaining all of us for more than 50 years and given us tonnes of movie theories to ponder. For example, is Shin Godzilla really dead? Is Godzilla's son still alive? And how many giant insect monsters are there!? No matter if we create a giant MechaGodzilla (a giant robot Godzilla), employ a giant moth to do our dirty work, send nukes after this epic monster or even destroy the oxygen around him, Godzilla will always be rising out of the sea to create mayhem! As the movie character Ishiro Serizawa wisely quoted "The arrogance of men is thinking nature is in our control and not the other way around. Let them fight."

By Thomas Clark, Year 9

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

OLD OXLEYAN

Hannah Raffe Year 12 1999



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

My journey since finishing Oxley has definitely been filled with twists and turns! I didn't know what to do after school, so I decided to pursue journalism as I enjoyed writing. Unfortunately, I became very disillusioned by the realities of a career in the mainstream media, and left university with no concrete plans for the future. I decided to move to Fiji for six months, where my father owned and operated a resort, while I figured out what my next steps would be. I ended up living there for 16 years! I fell into sales and marketing by accident and absolutely loved it as it allowed me to be creative and utilise my communications skills. I also got to travel to the most amazing places for sales trips, and form friendships with colleagues from all over the world. My father had some spare land and challenged my brothers and I to "do something" with it. We ended up creating a child-free boutique resort called Lomani, which is the Fijian word for love. Although we received a small initial investment for construction, everything about the resort including design concepts, branding, HR, procurement and catering were created by the four of us. We grew the business organically by reinvesting profits, and this year we will reopen in April after renovating during the Covid-19 shutdown, feeling that the resort is finally "complete".

After 15 years working in sales and marketing, I found my passion began to wane as I became more intrigued by Psychology. I was first introduced to Psychological concepts while completing a Master of Marketing, and psychology became a nagging distraction that I could not shake! I am currently in my Honours year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science and hope to pursue a Master of Clinical Psychology next year. It's been a big career shift but one that I am excited and passionate about.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

It might sound clichéd, but raising two children, Harrison and Madeline, who are kind, open-minded, respectful and loving is what I am most proud of.

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

Not at all. Marketing was not even on my radar while I was thinking about career options during high school. I remember considering Psychology during my senior years of high school but decided not to pursue it because I was terrible at maths. As it turns out, I'm still bad at maths but I'm actually pretty good at statistics!

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

Oxley offered me the opportunity to become a well-rounded individual. As a student, I participated in everything including music, drama, sports, debating, public speaking... I even tried martial arts! Having an attitude of giving everything a go helped me to develop various skills including teamwork and problem solving while also developing a resilient mindset. Learning to feel comfortable on a stage is also something that has served me well throughout my professional life, from being able to deliver presentations confidently to giving impromptu speeches.

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

There were many people who inspired me throughout high school. Mrs Cunich was instrumental in helping to develop my passion for music, and I can still belt out a few of the classics from vocal group! Mr Graham and Mr Cunich also nurtured my passion for drama, and while I wasn't the most talented actor, the opportunity for self-expression was incredibly rewarding. I remember feeling the most inspired by the amazing dramatic and musical performances given by other students, from Naomi Carling's soulful rendition of "Do Right Woman, Do Right Man" to Matthew Yeldum's tortured portrayal of the Marquis de Sade in Marat/Sade.

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

My two best friends are still my best friends from Oxley, and although we are in regular contact, I really miss being able to hang out with them everyday! I'm still really close to most of my friends from Oxley, some of whom are living half way across the world, and when we do catch up it's as though no time has passed at all.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. The bigger the challenge, the greater the reward, and you are far more capable than you realise.

INSPIRATION



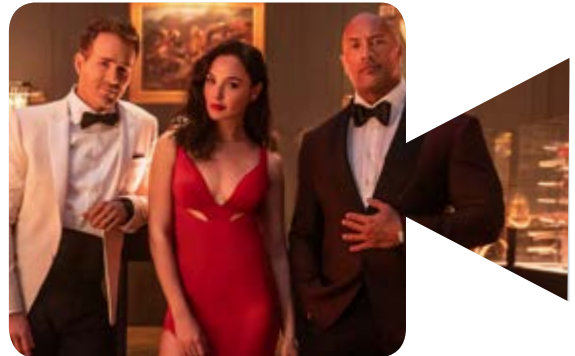
PLAY
Antigone

This year the Oxley drama enthusiasts performed in Sophocles' tragedy Antigone, with outstanding results that moved the audience. Antigone highlights worldwide topics such as power, morality, love, society, and pride. The students, whose performances are to be commended, auditioned in Term 4 of last year and rehearsed following a rigid schedule to achieve the best production. Each of the cast members showcased exceptional talent, allowing the audience to become fully immersed in the atmosphere and dynamic of the world of Antigone.

Milly Arthur in Year 11 played Antigone, her performance was outstanding, the audience was able to connect with the character easily, following a journey of morality driven by love of her brother, despite the challenges posed by Creon. Hal Canute, Year 12, in his last Oxley College production, played the role of Creon to an exceptional level. Hal effectively embodied the character, truly grasping the attention of the audience. Lilly Spring, Year 12, also in her last Oxley performance played the role of Ismene, Antigone's sister. Both Lilly and Milly established the moral journey throughout the play, as their character perspectives bounced off one another. Members of the cast included Charlie Hartwright, Dan Murray, Liam Verity, Peggy Holmwood, Leo Berry, Jen Allan, Elise Davies, Lola Greenop, Isabelle Hessey, Annabelle Johnson, Amelia May, Finn O'Mahoney, Illana Sheezel, Gloria Waters, Beth Zupp, and Joel Sheezel. Each performing at extensive levels and truly making the production come alive.

Each scene was constructed to perfection with the assistance of lighting and set design, the atmosphere created was breathtaking. Antigone was a beautiful performance by the students of Oxley. If you did not get a chance to see the production, it is highly recommended you go in the coming years! A special thanks to the crew Brianna Grice, Eleanora Berzins, Hamish Stephen, and William Barnett. Also, to the set, costume designers and director Mr Cunich.

By Leah Halstead, Year 11



FILM
Red Notice

Indiana Jones. National Treasure. Mission Impossible. Imagine a movie that took the mystery from Indiana Jones, the history of National Treasure and the plot twists from Mission Impossible. This is 'Red Notice', starring Ryan Reynolds, Dwayne Johnson, and Gal Gadot.

The trio of Ryan Reynolds, Dwayne Johnson, and Gal Gadot makes this movie what it is. This super trio, work together and they add elements of comedy and drama. They are by far the best part of the movie, with a close second being the plot.

The movie starts off when a FBI profiler, (Dwayne Johnson), goes on a hunt to prevent the theft of three golden eggs that once belonged to Cleopatra. He is forced to team up with one of the world's best art thieves, (Ryan Reynolds), to catch 'The Bishop', (Gal Gadot). This action-packed plot endures twists and turns, the journey extending around the world from Rome to Argentina to Bali to Paris.

Different themes and genres are intertwined throughout the plot. Mystery is carefully manipulated to leave the audience in suspense and on the edge of their seat waiting for what is going to happen next. Drama is included in the climatic scenes along with comedy to keep the audience engaged. The combination of history and art gives a realistic point of view on this story.

With the combination of mystery, history, and massive plot twists, 'Red Notice' is the perfect, entertaining movie to watch.

By Lucy Anderson, Year 8





UZZIE makes a stand on diversity in sport

Usman Khawaja was born in Islamabad, Pakistan. He arrived in Sydney in 1991 as a five-year-old with his parents and his two older brothers. He got into cricket as soon as he moved to Australia, however, white supremacy on the cricket field was a dominant feature of the sport after he joined a local cricket club named, 'Valley District Cricket Club' in Queensland.

Usman Khawaja's expertise is in the field of both domestic and international cricket as a left-handed top order batsman. He also has his pilot's licence! In 2011, Usman was chosen to play for Australia. He plays for Sydney Thunder and Queensland Bulls in a range of format matches for Australia. He has 11 test centuries under his belt, playing just under 500 professional games.

He became the first Muslim and first Pakistani – born Australian to receive an Australian cricket test baggy-green cap, becoming one of the leading lights in the Australian test team. He joined the Cricket Australia working group tasked with creating an action plan focusing on inclusion and greater cultural diversity within Australian cricket. Khawaja believed the perceptions that "he was lazy" was linked to his ethnicity and encouraged more people of colour and diverse religion to join the Cricket Australia boardroom as well as the top levels of coaching, so that the coloured and religious players could have a more mixed environment allowing them to relate and bond to the players in more easy-going environments. Khawaja said himself that he had been treated differently in periods of times where he had trouble relating to some coaches and directors as white Anglo-Saxons.

He raised points as to why Australian cricket has seen so few non-white players at the very top of the game and why for decades after decades the nation has been becoming more diverse than the names of most of the players picked for the men's and women's teams. Usie himself, gained the confidence to show other minority players of the potential they have in the industry though "belting down the proverbial door" to gain opportunities for NSW and Australia without feeling like he was fully part of the team he was chosen for. He moved to Queensland and chose to do things his own and authentic way,

becoming one of the most accomplished as well as respected captains of cricket in the domestic ranks.

He has recently returned to Pakistan for the Australia vs Pakistan three test series, where he has been dominant as a top order batsman scoring 97 in the first test and 160 and 44* in the second test.

Khawaja spoke up stating, "One of the big things is people around the game, coaches, staff at Cricket Australia (CA). They've been really good at bringing forward gender equality, but I think the same thing needs to be done for multiculturalism. That goes all the way up to the top, to the board." He showed that CA has come such a long way out, but there is still room for improvement in order for there to be established equality. "Is there someone who's reflecting the general population of Australia, or is it just older cricketers who are predominantly white, Anglo-Saxon players? That's just the crux of it, that's what it's been. Cricket's a very white sport and has been for a long time in Australia. So, unless things start changing from the top, it's very hard to funnel that down, because that's where all the decisions are made". He is proving that cricket in Australia has so much potential in the sport and will have even better potential if they consider the diversity of the sport and what it could mean for Australia.

By Hannah Zupp, Year 11

BRONZE ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY



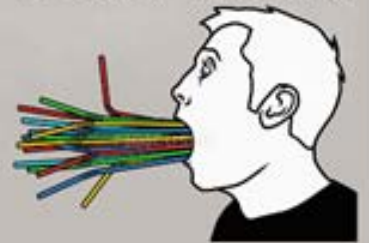
rites of passage

More to come...



Things gen z people don't say but really wish they could say:

climate change edition



"I honestly kinda miss plastic straws."

"Yeah, but like, how soon are we talking climate change wise - like, the apocalypse will occur before my 18th birthday soon, or I have enough time to plan my gap year soon?"

"But like - the charity bracelets - you know, the little plastic beaded bracelets I get every year because you don't know what else to get me? Comes with a note about how this plastic hasn't gone to landfill? Right, now here's what I don't understand: how on earth does this make things better? The fact that the plastic is now on my wrist doesn't make it magically biodegrade. Like, it still sucks for the environment. The only difference is now it says "surfer girl" on it. I don't even surf."

"I am super tired of my childhood being made up of important historical events."

"Ok, here's the thing: everyone used to hate deforestation but now everything is paper. Paper straws, paper bags, paper cups. Like, what's up with that? What's happened to the 'your killing our world with your colouring in sheets children' thing?"

"Greta Thunberg kinda scares me. In a good way. I like the whole saving the world bit. But like, I would not want to accidentally spill my coffee on her."

"For goodness' sake, it's my future at stake here! If I'm not lecturing someone about it with a super long PowerPoint with glitter transitions, then why are you?"

"You know that ground hog day thing they do in America? How they wait for this little groundhog to come out of its hole and if it goes back into its hole that means it's still winter for 6 weeks? Ok. So, you're telling me that people trust the groundhog's opinion, but are somehow still sceptical about climate scientists?"

Please contact Violet FitzSimons if you have any entries for the column! If you've ever been puzzled by coffee cup lids, outraged by miss-spelt street signs or confused as to why people from the Netherlands are Dutch and not Nethermens (which would be way cooler) this column is for you.

**By Violet FitzSimons
Year 9**

Next week's edition is... things gen z people don't say but really wish they could say: social media edition.

Can't wait to hear what you don't say but really wish you could say!

NEWSFLASH

PHOENIX SPARKE BIATHLON

Phoenix Sparke Year 10 has just returned from representing Australia, racing in the Youth World Championships Biathlon in Soldier Hollow, Utah.



Phoenix competed in the youth category (u19) and placed 60th in individual, 61st in the sprint and was part of Australia's first ever Youth Mens Relay team who placed 16th. Phoenix performed strongly and at 15, was the youngest male competitor who qualified. His ski times were fantastic, and shooting improving with each race. His qualification was over summer when he was training and racing in Austria and Italy. Phoenix placed 2nd in the Austrian National Championships U16 races, and within the percentage timeframe of the U19 category.

Phoenix is training for State and National championships in Australia this year - with a view to being eligible for selection to the 2024 Youth Winter Olympics.

UKRAINE FUNDRAISERS

The situation in Ukraine is not something that needs an introduction. To put it quite simply it is war, and it is wrong. In true Oxley fashion we decided that it was not our place to shakily step up to the podium and deliver politically correct speeches about the topic, or even half-heartedly advertise fundraiser or initiative. No, we knew this was an issue that called for a good old fashion sausage sizzle.

Last Thursday all Senior School Oxleyans came to school wearing yellow and blue mufti, but more importantly, on Thursday all Oxleyans came to school wearing the colours of Ukraine. A long queue stretched across Elvo lawn and the science corridors steps as students lined up to swap their money for tokens to spend at stalls that boasted cakes and lollies and chips and most importantly, freshly cooked sausages.

Fundraisers, in the past, have always been days where students can be seen sprinting across the grounds, shouting at their mates and chugging Fanta like they don't have a chemistry exam tomorrow. But on this day, it was different. Despite the smell of cake wafting towards us as we queued in line for the various stalls the mood of Oxley College was sombre. Though we all made attempts at pleasant conversation and bragged about how warm our various clothing items were against the breeze never once did we forget why we were spending our money. Mackenzie Kane, a Year 12 student at Oxley, stood on the balcony of Elvo while we milled about, clutching our newly bought goodies, and he delivered a speech about why we were raising money, why the Ukrainian flag hung from Oxley's flagpole, why this day was a day of sadness as well as community.

"With the issuing of an order in Moscow, history's course has forever been altered" he stated as the crowds of students began to stop and look up.

"Until 20 days ago, international law, world order and state sovereignty, liberal and democratic ideals have, for the most part, reigned supreme. Peace between major nations had been maintained since 1945. But with the issuing of an order in Moscow, that all changed and history's course has forever been altered."

He continued this speech, this explanation, this summary of a concept so foreign to students like us who have never seen war before in real time, in real life, with real people and Oxley stood silent.

Oxley raised \$4335.20. Because the situation in Ukraine is war

OXLEY FIRSTS BASKETBALL

Oxley Firsts Boys Basketball just missed coming out on top for the season, losing to Oakhill College 39-41. The team fought hard to come back from being 10 points behind to nearly winning the game in the last minute, just missing out on a penalty. Congratulations on a great season.



and it is wrong and whether we help by donating or cooking sausages Oxley will not stand silent.

This war is not something that can be aptly covered in a Pin Oak article or explained in passing, so please educate yourself on what is happening and why it is happening. The news will fluctuate with stories of horror and hope but please don't let yourself fall into a state of apathy, of numbness or disbelief. As Mackenzie said, "We must not, we cannot, as the world has done numerous times before, grow apathetic or fatigued at this crisis, at the suffering of other people."

Please consider donating to <https://www.savethechildren.org.au/donate/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response>.

Written by Violet FitzSimons, Year 9

Today, the Junior School also had a mufti day to raise money for Ukraine. They raised \$1200.00 for the children of Ukraine. A group of Year 6 students organised stalls selling keyrings, slim and balloons and many other things and ran a raffle.

Congratulations to our wonderful K - 12 Oxley community.

