

PINOAK

ISSUE 79: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 16, 2018
OXLEY COLLEGE



YEAR 10 FILM
FESTIVAL AT THE
EMPIRE

ENDING THE
YEAR ON A
POSITIVE

PREMIER'S
READING
CHALLENGE

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

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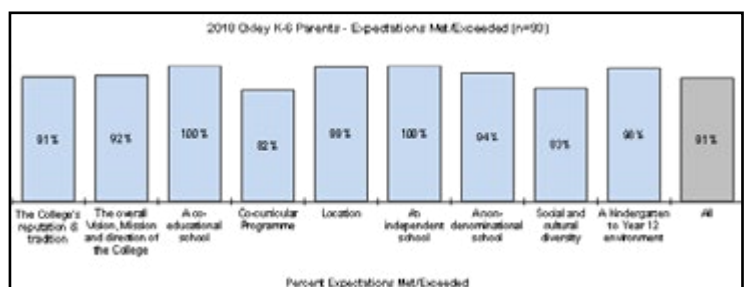
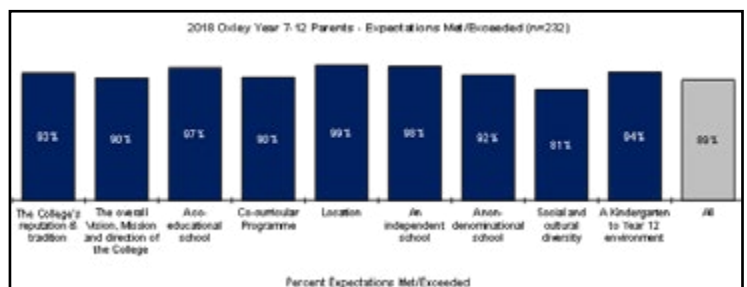
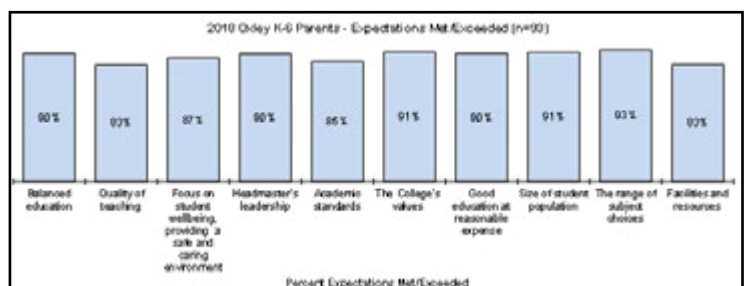
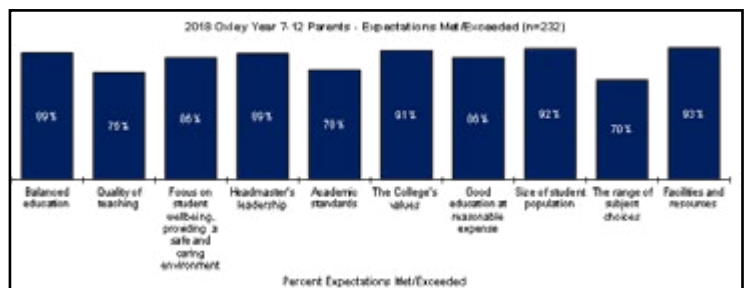
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Dear Parents,

Thank you again to all of you for completing a survey about Oxley in Term 3. It really is helpful to us to calibrate what we are doing and where we are going.

For the 2018 review, a total of 232 Senior School parents and 93 Junior School parents completed the survey. The following charts detail the percentage of parents who noted their expectations had been met or exceeded across key areas, grouped in order of the importance they placed on these same areas when choosing a school. For example, 89% of parents noted their expectations had been met or exceeded for 'Balanced education' – one of the most important areas noted.



HEADMASTER'S REPORT continued

Overall, we are very pleased with the results. However, there are areas identified to which we will give particular attention. We will be looking more closely at how to maintain and keep improving our academic offerings all the way through the College, and this will involve subject choices. We will be looking closely at Maths Pathways and how to deliver a Maths course that both allows for individual progression and also has the teacher centrally involved in teaching groups of students. We will look at stronger communication in our co-curricular programmes (we have already appointed a new assistant to do this since the survey) and more play facilities particularly in the younger years.

The Board and staff will see the results in real detail when a presentation is made to them in February next year by MMG (the company who conducted the survey). After this, the Executive will use the detailed results as a basis of the 2019 strategic plan. They will want to keep nurturing our strengths and tackling areas where there should be improvements. There will be ongoing monitoring too.

On behalf of the College I thank you again for the time you spent filling out the survey so thoughtfully.

Some building news

Firstly, it is great to have solar panels installed around the College. You will have seen them on the roof of the Junior School. It is much harder to spot them on the roof of the Peter Craig Centre (which is where most of them will be) but they are being installed there as I write. I must congratulate the student leaders of the Environment Committee who were a part of making this happen.

Secondly, the saga of the Bray Fields continues, but progresses. After a year of being in bureaucratic hell, we were granted a bore licence three weeks ago to get water to the serially dying grass. At the time of writing we have bore drillers on site digging

to find water. They are down 85 metres with no sign of water yet. However, the drill goes down to 300 metres so we are still optimistic. Each metre is like drilling through concrete so it is slow work with some heavy duty machinery. We are still planning to have the turf green and verdant for the beginning of the winter season next year. (I know I said that last year...and the year before... but we are literally leaving no stone unturned now). With the view to the west and the river on their northern edge, I think the Bray Fields are going to be just about the most beautiful school playing grounds in NSW.

Thirdly, we finally got an Occupation Certificate for the Multi-purpose courts on Tuesday at 1.35pm. Kids had their Tuesday afternoon basketball training up there just two hours later. It is a terrific development - durable, convenient and well made. As the planting and turfing continues over the next few weeks, it will become another showpiece for the College. I took some photos of the first training session ever and you can see them reproduced here. Hopefully some of the kids in the photos will be showing their Oxleyan grandchildren the photos one day and saying 'I shot the very first basket up there'.

Staff

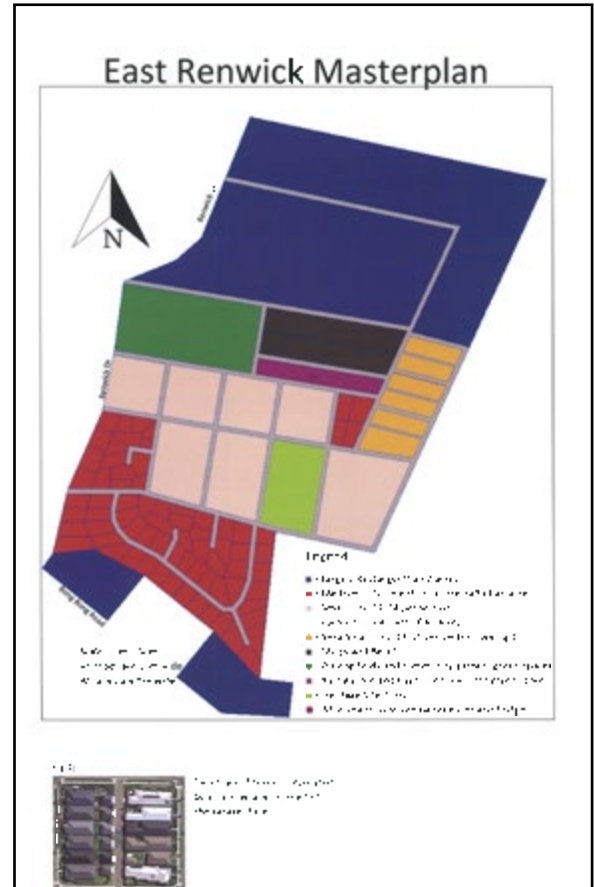
Bronwyn Tregenza will be giving up her roles at Oxley of Science Teacher, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator and Accreditation Leader. She is a very strong educator indeed and many of our children have had the advantage of her engaging, thoughtful and really creative lessons about Science. She built a very strong pedagogical department in the years that she was Curriculum Leader - Science. We will miss her expertise and her energy. She will be working as a freelance contractor with an American firm on coding in STEM and also as a presenter on difficult conversations and relations with a top Australian educational company. Luckily she will still be organising and attending Rites of Passage with



YEAR 9 MASTER PLANS

'A liveable and loveable neighbourhood'. This was the challenge set for the Year 9 Geography students who set about designing a master plan for the residential development at Renwick, near Mittagong. Their brief was to produce a scale drawing of the site and then incorporate a number of sustainable features based on housing type and design, community facilities, recreational open space, active transport, heritage, water and energy resources.

The most effective plans will be displayed at the forthcoming Co-Lab, a forum of community, industry, government, schools and universities from across New South Wales, brought together to engage in and explore urban transformation challenges. Oxley students will have the opportunity to present their designs at this forum, this year being held in Parramatta.



TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOK

★★★★★

The novel "Throne of Glass" is written by New York times bestseller Sarah J. Maas and is a fantasy novel that is sure to leave you breathless and wanting more. The story follows the life of Celaena Sardothien, a young teenage assassin, living in a world without magic. Celaena must face the devastating truth of her dark past and try to uncover the mysterious beings and events in her new home. Maas writes many truths about adolescence and the balance between life and death. Although set in a fantasy world, Celaena has so many traits that make her relatable to teenagers and adults. Celaena's comical look on life, in comparison to the other characters, is extremely enjoyable and entertaining to read, especially when accompanied with Maas' descriptive and delicate use of words. Jam-packed with fast paced action scenes, a thrilling plot line and seven more stories entailing the life of Celaena, "Throne of Glass" should be on everyone's To Do list!!

By Isabella Pether (Year 9)



Oxley College Music Department presents the class of 2018-2019

Year 12 Music Night

Wednesday 21 November 2018

7pm | Orchestra Room
free admission | refreshments provided

MUSIC

To replace your music review this week, an item of excitement will instead take its place. On Wednesday 21 November the eagerly awaited... Year 12 Music Night... yes that's right ladies and gentlemen, with such esteemed performers as Bethany Grice with the exquisite "probably Beethoven" by Beethoven probably, Benjamin Canute with "123" By Smokepurpp and "hmmmm ill let you kno," an original piece by Savannah Sandilands. Truly this night is once in a lifetime, and should not be missed by any, not just those avid music fans, but even a casual music listener, as any ear present will experience true euphoria. As if this all could be any better there will be probably not just one, maybe two, and no more than three pieces performed by the whole class. You can be assured that it will truly be the event of a generation, talked about for decades to come. There will even be... free tea... I've gone on for long enough, even though I cannot overstate the importance of attendance. I will probably see you there.

By Sam Crowley (Year 12 2019)



FILM

★★★★★

Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark

Let me get this out of the way, the first scene is recognisable even to people who haven't watched the movie, that's how big of an impact this movie's first 10 minutes had on pop culture. But onto the rest, this movie is great, from the acting to the action this is a blast to watch. The main character, what a shock, is Indiana Jones, played by Harrison Ford. His portrayal of the character is astounding, he really sounds like he is an Archaeologist finding historical artefacts for science. The flow of the scenes is never interrupted by a jarring transition, or bad set piece standing out as a bad transition from one scene to another. The plot is as follows, Nazis want to find the Ark Of The Covenant, but Indiana is sent to stop them, simple plot, but detailed in execution. He meets up with an old friend, Marion Ravenwood, who has an important piece to the metaphorical puzzle, but the Nazis get there first, but Indiana swiftly saves her. They go to Cairo, where the Nazis are searching for an chamber underground, when they find it, they plot course for the Ark, but Indiana stops them, but gets captured, yet he escapes again. Then he gets captured yet again (it's a running theme) and he is taken to the altar where they are opening the Ark. The Nazis open the Ark, then spirits fly out and melt the Nazis faces off. This last scene has been built up over the film as so important, that Indiana if possible should give his life to stop it. I know that is a bleak summary but this review is already stretching out longer than I thought, so just watch this movie, it's on Netflix so if you have it then there is no excuse. By Oscar Currie (Year 7)

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Head of Junior School: Justine Lind

I love the answers I hear when I ask our students, "What happens at your house when you have visitors coming?" This week we have been like any normal family and done a quick whip around to tidy up for the very special visitors who have been with us over the last little while. We have been practising out our collective aims to be 'a place of welcome'.

Yesterday, we welcomed new students to almost every year level as part of our annual Orientation Day and Move-up Day. On Wednesday I spoke to all students and shared the quote, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." We talked about a sense of rolling out the red carpet as a way to tap into everyone's memories of their first day at Oxley. I asked them what someone had done to help them feel welcome or what they wish someone had done for them. Many suggestions were forthcoming; smiling, saying hello or inviting someone to join in your game. It was wonderful when several new parents were able to report the relative ease of their arrival and separation in the morning due to student outreach. One parent recounted their own relief and delight when their child was greeted with an energetic, "What do you want to see first?" There was a great buzz as spontaneous connections and new friendships were sparked. Our students are proud of their school, of their role in including newcomers and of their capacity to action ideas.

There has been thoughtful planning to prepare some more formal support mechanisms for our new students. Buddies have been established for our Kindergarten students with current Year 5 volunteers who will continue into 2019. Students coming into Year 3 and Year 5 have been paired with a buddy in their own class. I also heard that there were plans afoot today to extend an invitation to all new Year 5 families to join in on the upcoming Year 4 social gathering, so it is no wonder our students are so thoughtful when parents model this for them.

Our Year 6 Leaders and College Pipe Band enthusiastically welcomed our guests to pipe them in or usher them to classrooms on arrival. At the formal presentation for Orientation Day our K-2 classes provided a heart-warming musical welcome and our Captain's gave speeches to recount some of their experiences at Oxley. In addition Mrs Kate Gair spoke warmly about the generous contributions of baking and time to cake stalls and special events each year. We look forward to welcoming as many current parents as possible to the P&F AGM and Thankyou Drinks next Tuesday night and encourage you to consider taking on one of the Class Rep roles if you haven't previously. We value these agents in our midst and it is a wonderful way to connect with other parents for the good of all children.

Across Stage 1, classes have extended their welcome into the wider community to visitors from Harbison Aged Care during the last three terms. The connections and mutual value to both the residents and students have strengthened considerably during the year to genuine fondness and care. In Week 7 the classes from Kindergarten to Year 3 will visit Harbison for the Yellow Brick Road Tea Party.

Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

KL: Charlotte Byrne
Yr 1S: Thomas Berry
Yr 1W: Oscar Le Guay
Yr 2: Livie Marks
Yr 3: Kallan Rendell
Yr 4: Camille Vild
Yr 5C: Sophie Spring
Yr 5H: Sarah Witcombe
Yr 6A: Oscar Arnold
Yr 6L: Madeleine Grill

Oxley Values

KL: Anna-Sophia Psarakis
Yr 1S: Samsara Pout
Yr 1W: Ava Gomes
Yr 2: Charlotte Bissett
Yr 3: Matthew Morschel
Yr 4: Sofia Perin
Yr 5C: Bryn Wiseman
Yr 5H: Jack Pether
Yr 6A: Harry Smith, Samuel Bernstein
Yr 6L: Bella Leahy



Oxley Values

KL - Tessa Hunter
Yr 1W - Aari Poole
Yr 1S - Oscar Johnson
Yr 2 - Cecilia Vild
Yr 3 - Aiden D'Iorio
Yr 4 - Georgie Marks
Yr 5C - Leio Reader
Yr 5H - Ben Shields
Yr 6A - Jack Snell
Yr 6L - Ashton Mineeff

Learning Journey

KL - Chase Holmes
Yr 1W- Pollyanna Landrigan
Yr 1S - Ava Kroll
Yr 2 - Ella Wallace
Yr 3 - Javier Poole
Yr 4 - Archie Wallace
Yr 5C - Grace Malouf
Yr 5H - Chilli Sparke
Yr 6A - Phoebe Pratten
Yr 6L - Georgia Pride

Like the Mad Hatters Tea Party in Term 2, these events provide much excitement for our students and a significant sense of purpose and anticipation for the residents who go to so much trouble to roll out the red (or yellow in this case) carpet for us!

Connections are a vital aspect of human need. Connections provide a sense of security, purpose and essential validation of each person's value in a community. These feeling are enduring and galvanising against the ups and downs of everyday life. We are so fortunate to be in the business of building connections and of seeing the power of many full hearts flourishing within and beyond our classrooms, playground and school.





Ending the year on a positive note

Around this time of year, we can all relate to those slow-moving end of year blues. For some it may be the time to plan for the year ahead or get in early to buy those one-of-a-kind eccentric Christmas bon-bons and for those with exams coming up fast, a time for studying.

This busy and overwhelmed state takes a toll on our mentality.

And so, I believe that the end of the year calls for something much more meaningful. It calls for a time of positivity and mindfulness, to try not sweat the small stuff. The end of the year should be finished in a joyous and fulfilling way. The following tips and tricks can help you conclude these long 12 months in a positive way.

Inspired by a no. 1 New York Times best seller, 'Simple ways to keep the little things from taking over your life,' written by Richard Carlson.

Learn to live in the present

To live in the moment means to ignite your senses in order to be conscious of and recognise the world around you. To do this you need to let go of what happened yesterday or your worries of tomorrow, take one day at a time. Not one human on this planet has 100% guarantee that they will be alive tomorrow. SO, I believe that there is no logic in living yesterday and tomorrow today. Ways to live in the present include; lifting your head up and out of social media, otherwise we get too caught up in other people's lives instead of focusing on our own. Another way is to forgive those that have hurt you in the past, this is to help you live the happiest and most fulfilling life, day by day.

Every day, tell at least one person something you like, admire or appreciate about them

This random act of kindness can really brighten up someone's day. Genuine positive comments can help make a happier and more peaceful world. The act of saying something like "You are so talented" takes little to no effort, yet it spreads such happiness and self-pride. These comments also benefit the compliment giver; they create a positive thought process and give feelings of peace and fulfilment. Whether it be a sibling, friend or even stranger, try to make the world a better place by a simple positive comment.

Avoid weatherproofing

This metaphor explains the common human tendency of being ungrateful.

When we weatherproof our homes, we are looking for defects, cracks, leaks, holes, and overall, we are searching for imperfections to fix. Human weather-proofers do the same thing; they look for defects in the people and places around them. This creates an incredibly negative view on life and makes it never good enough. This tendency is not ideal to have when you want strong relationships. In order to avoid weatherproofing you need to let go of the idea of 'fixing' the people and places around you. This will help you see life through a different lens in which you don't focus on all the 'wrong' things around you, and so you can embrace and be grateful for all the good surrounding you.

Relax

To relax means to “become less tense or anxious.” Though, it is found that most people postpone relaxation until it suits your calendar, meaning that around 95% of the time you are tense and anxious. It is not healthy to live “as if life were one great emergency.” Relaxation should be seen as something you can automatically unlock within yourself whenever. To help unlock that relaxation you could use a meditation program, listen to music, lie down and/or read. As you become more relaxed, you’ll notice yourself reacting differently to the drama in life. It is also important to understand that you can be a super-achiever as well as relaxed at the same time. Relaxation creates a more harmonious and peaceful world in which we can all strive to attribute to.

By Peggy Holmwood (Year 8)

Suggested apps and program.



Headspace has over 15 million users. The app allows you to learn how to meditate and “build healthy habits.”

The app is also able to track your progress. They have sessions on stress, sleep, focus and anxiety.



Not-for-profit organisation that strives to make mindfulness accessible to everyone. This programme includes a number of modules with sessions in which are aimed at particular age group.

**Once you replace
negative thoughts
with positive ones,
you'll start having
positive results.**



Willie Nelson
www.geckoandfly.com

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

Senior School Pastoral Structure 2019

School connectedness is widely recognised as a strong indicator of student wellbeing and Oxley's House system with the vertical Tutor Group structure plays a vital role in promoting an individual student's connectedness to the school and their peers. The provision of high quality of pastoral care is possible when Tutor Groups remain small enough for Tutors to know each individual in their Tutor Group. The total number of students in the Senior School is projected to increase steadily over the next few years and whilst there is a cap of 100 students per year group, the current structure would lead to a corresponding increase in the sizes of Tutor Groups from 2019. Indeed, if the current structure remains unchanged, the average number of students in each Tutor Group is projected to rise to around 24 students in three years time. However, with a rise in staff numbers in 2019, we are now in a position to increase the number of Tutor Groups per House from four to five and therefore maintain the individual care that smaller sized Tutor Groups can provide. Making this change next year will mean that the average size of each Tutor Group will be kept to approximately 17 students and will remain at or below 20 students for the subsequent years. With two new Heads of House in 2019 and other staffing changes, there is a compelling reason to make this change now.

The process of selecting which students will move to the new fifth Tutor Groups in each House will begin in the next couple of weeks. This will involve students completing a simple survey in which they will express their preference to remain in their existing Tutor Group or move to the new one. The survey will inform decisions about which students will move to the fifth Tutor Group, with every effort made to accommodate students' preferences. Decisions about which students will move to the fifth Tutor Group in each House will be made before the end of term.

'Walk for Life'

Earlier this month, Oxley was delighted to support 'Walk for Life', an initiative of octogenarian and founder of Suicide Prevention Australia, Alan Staines (OAM) (OF). Alan undertook a 300km walk from Parliament House in Canberra to Sydney CBD in order to raise awareness of the impact of suicide on bereaved family and friends, which is a key aim of Postvention Australia – The National Association for the Bereaved by Suicide, of which Alan is the National Secretary. Alan spent time talking with students and staff about the Walk for Life initiative before setting off from Oxley and hosting a community forum in Bowral later that day. He and his team also provided the school with fact sheets and resources for people to support those who have been bereaved by suicide.

Student drop off / pick up

Parents are reminded that parking or drop off is not available via the second entrance to the College. This parking area is reserved for deliveries and staff. Students should not be dropped off on the road by the entrance, and neither should this area or the exit to the staff car

park (near the maintenance shed) be used to pick up students or to turn around. Please also adhere to the 10k/h speed limit on site and be vigilant in watching for all pedestrians on the campus.

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Year 7 – 10 Yearly Examinations

At this point, students are rapidly moving toward the Yearly Examination period. Timetables and notifications have been issued and teachers, tutors and Heads of House continue to support students in the preparation period. We know that while not always (or ever) an enjoyable thing, the rigour of revision and testing is an important step along the way to HSC success. Parents are encouraged to ask questions, sit shoulder to shoulder to support and generally be the positive voice that reminds their children that this is skill development and important for that purpose, not the marks themselves. Please remember that help is available in the Library through our Tightrope programme too.

2019 Year 12 Ascend to the Study Centre

This week the long awaited move into the Study Centre occurred for the 2019 cohort. There has been much excitement, much arranging of coffee mugs and some initial seizing of favourite study tables! It is great to see that the centre has quickly become home already to those students who wish to work silently before, during and after the school day. Students set goals for each session, are checked on by supervisors and have access to our Academic Master.

2018 HSC Examination

Last week our Year 12 students sat their very last HSC examination. We have watched over them with pride as they have run the marathon of three hour examinations over four weeks – some finished in the first two weeks; others had three exams in the last two days! But what did we consistently see? Students who were calm, prepared and mindful prior to entering the Hoskins Hall, who then emerged hours later excited, confident and pleased with their efforts. We wait now to hear of the academic results, published on Thursday 13 December. Students then receive their ATARs on Friday 14 December. We know that whatever the outcome, our students have embodied our Oxley vision of "stretch, strive and stick" - conquering challenges, sustaining effort and ultimately showing the best version of themselves at this important but fleeting time of their lives.

Our Year 12 teachers deserve many thanks for their continued support of their students throughout the process. Students have sent through essays and past papers throughout the process, and have been supported by teachers who have sent back timely feedback to assist further study. We must acknowledge too the work of the HSC Presiding Officer, Mr Richard Connor who has managed the process for NESAs on our site, the parent volunteers who worked as scribes and readers for our students.

NEPAL REFLECTION



ENGLISH

In Year 7 English we have been studying Indigenous stories from the dreaming. We have been focusing in particular on stories from Indigenous groups belonging to the Southern Highlands - the Gundungurra people.

Recently, we visited the Cecil Hoskins Reserve, where a number of important tribes came to meet. It also has great importance as a place of historical significance.

We left Oxley not knowing what to expect. As we arrived we saw a beautiful reserve with heaps of wildlife. Then we met up with Aunty Wendy, Aunty Jo and Uncle Peter. Aunty Wendy and Aunty Jo then took all the girls and Uncle Peter took all of the boys.

The boys were told stories that only men could know, and the girls were told stories that only girls could know. Despite a slight feeling that we all wanted to share these stories, we respected this Aboriginal value and didn't! The boys were told how indigenous men began their childhood, that they were not allowed to hunt until they became a teenager. Instead they would learn how to make baskets, traps, weaving, and cooking. This would all be taught to you by the women in your tribe. The women were also the ones to keep the tribe going and being a physically healthy place for everyone, by cooking and collecting foods. Then they would be taken by the men and taught how to hunt for themselves.

This excursion gave us an understanding of how people survived off the land they had around them and lived on, and that it was important to stay tight with your tribe and help everyone. It would be an amazing way to live!

Joe Quilty (Year 7)



While in Nepal we learnt so much about ourselves, and the people around us. It put me in a setting where bonds were established, goals were conquered and has made us all worldly individuals. Going to a place where no one knows of you, a place where the language is foreign and somewhere with an entirely new view on the world has a resonating impact on you.

One of the main highlights from the trip was the people. In Australia, strangers do not usually acknowledge you on the street, but Nepal is an entirely different story. Walking around, you are greeted with 'Namaste' by everyone, and in simple words, they were just nice. The trek crew who accompanied us during our stay in Jhib Jhibe and on our hike was an experience you could never get in Australia. The fact that a group of people were able to take such great care of a bunch of strangers was an alien reality, but one that was relished.

Teaching the Nepali children at the schools was the best fun I think I have ever had. Walking into a room full of smiling faces, eager to learn something about the new people at their school was enlightening. During the breaks, we would bond over games of volleyball, cricket, or 'piggy in the middle'. This has taught me the importance of friends. Although they have little compared to us, the friendships they have built are the things they value the most. I have gotten to know so many new people in our year, and heading towards our final few years, I know I could also count on this fantastic group of people.

While in one of the smaller villages, we were disconnected from the rest of the world entirely. These were the times that I will remember the most. Laughs over cards, daily swims at the nearby waterfall and failed attempts at cricket. I cannot express in words how highly I think of this group.

Strangely I have not felt as comfortable as I do with myself as I did after returning from this trip. Maybe it was some of the qualities of the rest of the group that rubbed off or looking over the mountainous views in the morning knowing that an entire world was out there that sparked something inside of you.

Nepal has literally been the trip of a lifetime.

By Jade Neath, James Feetham and Rosie Thompson

HSC NOMINATIONS

Outstanding results for Oxley Drama, Design Technology and Visual Arts

Drama

Early in September, fourteen Oxley Year 12 students sat the practical component of their HSC Drama examination. All students performed exceptionally well and 10 of them were nominated for selection for the HSC showcase 'Onstage'. Two students; Lachlan Billington-Phillips and Jacob Sullivan were nominated for both their Group and Individual performances; an outstanding achievement.

We are delighted to announce that one of our HSC Drama groups has now been selected to perform at the Seymour Centre in February 2019.

The members of the group are:

Lachlan Billington-Phillips

Campbell de Montemas

Cameron Grice

Freya Kenay

Conor O'Meagher

Jacob Sullivan

It is very rare to have your school nominated for a group, yet alone selected for a group, let alone selected two years in a row!

Huge congratulations to Drama teacher Phil Cunich and everyone who was involved.

Design and Technology

Secondly, we have had three nominations for the HSC Design and Technology exhibition, SHAPE. They are: Jessica Deakin, Mikaela Pugh, Juliette Swain. Congratulations to all these students and their teacher Beatrice Lanser.

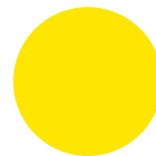
Visual Art

Thirdly, we have had one nomination, Jessica Deakin for the Visual Art HSC Showcase ARTEXPRESS. Congratulations to her and her teachers Jacqui Pugh and Vanessa Forbes.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IN THE WORLD... **FILM FESTIVAL**



**YOUR ENVIRONMENT
LEVY TO WORK**

**WINGECARRIBEE
RIVERCARE
BURRADOO**

3rd FRIDAY of the month
9am - midday

New volunteer registration
Call Council 4868 0888

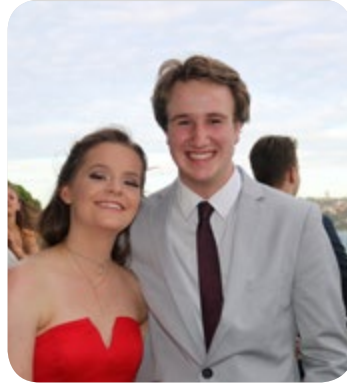


CROWLEY'S CONSPIRACY CORNER

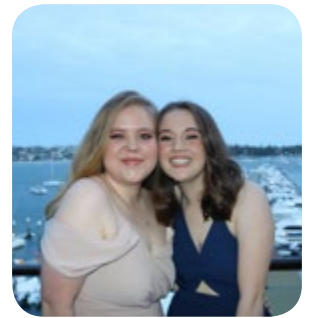
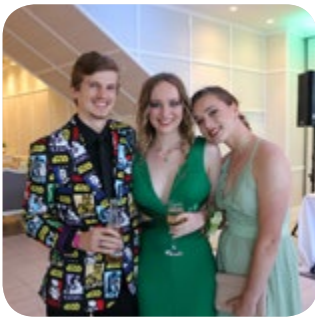
Good day Oxlyens, today I bring a glimpse of happiness in our bleak world, rather than uncovering some devious plot, or exposing disgusting propaganda, I shall bring you a glimmer of hope. Sultanas. For long years you may have thought of sultanas as low tier dried fruits, or pesky and misleading biscuit ruiners, but i assure you that sultanas are some of the most versatile instruments in the world. They can be used for almost every measurement; volume, length, and even weight, as a sultana weighs almost exactly a gram. Approximately 1.2 trillion sultanas are produced annually, and if we didn't eat them they would be a more than adequate global unit of measurement. In fact if we didn't eat any for 43 million years we would have enough to make a sultana planet the size of our own. Now that I have shed such light on this sadly and frequently overlooked fruit, maybe you'll think about saving some, rather than baking them into cookies. We only need to save them for 43 million years.

By Sam Crowley (Year 12 2019)

Full report and photos in next Pin Oak.



GALLERY



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CALENDAR

	Mon 19 Senior House Drama Night, 7.00pm, Hoskins Hall	Mon 26 Year 5- 6 Swim Week Year 1 - 3 Harbison Care Tea Party	Mon 03 Year 10 Business Week K - Year 4 Swim Week
	Tue 20 P & F AGM 6.30pm and Thank you to the P & F Drinks, 7.15pm	Tue 27 Year 5 - 6 swim Week Year 7 - 10 End of Year Exams	Tue 04 K - Year 4 Swim Week
	Wed 21 Kindergarten second optional Orientation Day 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Wed 28 Year 7 - 10 End of Year Exams K - 2 Harbison Care Tea Party Year 5 - 6 Swim Week	Wed 05 K - Year 4 Swim Week
	Thu 22 Year 7 School Immunisation Programme Year 9 Co.Lab Sydney 2018, Parramatta Girls/Boys Basketball game Oxley vs Shellharbour	Thu 29 Year 7 - 10 End of Year Exams Year 5 - 6 Swim Week Year 2 B'que and Campout, Elvo lawn	Thu 06 K - Year 4 Swim Week
Fri 16 Senior Orientation Day Year 4 Parents Dinner	Fri 23 Year 5 - 6 Swim Week begins	Fri 30 Year 7 - 10 End of Year Exams K - Year 4 Swim Week Year 4 Pool Party, Bowral Pool	Fri 07 Junior School Presentation Assembly Headmaster's Farewell Assembly and P & F Afternoon Tea Year 10 ABW Dinner
Sat 17 ISA Round 4 10 Year Reunion, 6.00pm, David Wright Library	Sat 24 ISA Round 5	Sat 01 ISA Round 6 Year 12 2019 Parent Xmas Drinks	Sat 08
Sun 18	Sun 25 Year 1 Family Gathering, Biota, 2.00pm	Sun 02	Sun 09

**Headmaster's
Farewell
Assembly
Friday 7
December,
1.45pm**



NEWSFLASH



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY

A fortnight ago, eleven students from Year 8 travelled to Regents Park Christian School to participate in the WeSSSTA Year 8 geography competition. We competed against 49 other teams with questions regarding the geopolitics, physical landscape and trivia of this earth we live on. Topics included flags of the world, world leaders, "betwixt and between" which is countries between countries, incomplete maps of countries, world cities and landmarks of Australia and New Zealand. This last category was the cause for much tension in the room as many teams who guessed their answers waited with bated breath. The wide variety of topics certainly made it difficult to revise for everything. For a small school, however, our teams came back with Oxley Green placing first and Oxley Gold placing second. All in all the day was incredibly enjoyable, a great success and a fantastic challenge for us all.

By Mack Kane (Year 8)

AL'S WALK FOR LIFE



'Take time to listen, take time to talk.'

86 year old Alan Staines left Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday 16 October to trek more than 320 kilometres to Sydney's CBD in order to raise awareness for people who have had a lost a love one to suicide. In Australia there are over eight suicides a day and for each suicide there are on average 135 people directly affected; That is 1080 Australian's affected by suicide a day. Oncemore those 135 people affected by suicide are eight times more likely to take their own lives. For more information please see: <https://www.facebook.com/alswalkforlife/>

By Pearl Bendle (Year 9)

GIRLS TOUCH FOOTBALL

The inaugural Girls Touch Football Competition kicked off with a hot high-energy Gala Day up in Bathurst hosted by All Saint's College and The Scots School. 300 girls making up 30 teams enjoyed a fresh and competitive start to the season. With much excitement pre-season surrounding Touch, Oxley were able to make up four teams for the ISA comp. These teams are being coached by Andrew Knowles, Alex Prophet, Lisa Fressard and Mr Bevan. The enthusiasm for the sport has also extended to levels of participation in a mixed local competition at Eridge Park, with two teams being entered, comprised of Oxley boys, girls and teachers. I think what's so special about this dynamic fast-paced game is its inclusive nature, a sport that can cater for people of all ages, genders, abilities and levels of experience, not only being enjoyed by a vast variety of people but bringing them together with the footy field being a social melting pot.

We are three games into the 2018/19 Summer Season and in our 4th round the B teams are travelling up to compete against Blue Mountains Grammar School and our A teams are playing at home against local rivals, Chevalier. I encourage everyone to come watch a game of Touch and witness the passion and flare of a sport that is rapidly growing, not just at Oxley or locally but across the country.

By Clancy Aboud (Year 10)

YEAR 10 D & T 3D RACECARS

Year 10 Design and Technology have just finished a unit on designing using Computer Aided Drawing and 3D printing Technology. They designed and created a propeller fueled racecar, printed it in the school's new 3D printers, made a simple circuit and raced them in the last class.

"Participating in the 3D printing racecar unit brought out many career and interest paths I haven't considered before. This unit provide me with the opportunity to 3D computer design programmes to design a car, 3D print it and race them. During this unit, I have learnt more about 3D designing, and now apply this knowledge into other units of design tech. Learning how to use the programme Fusion 360 has given me the skills to easily and effectively design to scale a project - information that can be passed onto any other subject. Overall, I loved this unit and I especially loved building in the cars source of power after printing." By Lauren Howes (Year 10)

