



Weekly Record

Friday 5 March 2010

HEAD'S COMMENT:

Parents' & Friends' Association

Tuesday 23 February saw the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley College Parents' & Friends' Association. I would like to thank the President, Mr Philip Chapman, the members of the Executive of the Association and the many parents who have worked tirelessly throughout 2009. They are to be congratulated for their initiatives and efforts. I look forward to working closely with the Parents' & Friends' throughout 2010 as they provide opportunities for parents and support for the work of the College.

Co-curricular involvement

I have commented recently on the academic effort required by the students at Oxley College. However, I do not wish to provide the impression that the range of other activities we offer at Oxley College are not important. School is a wonderful opportunity for students to challenge themselves and become involved in as many co-curricular activities as possible.

We are now completing the bulk of the summer sports season with finals this Saturday. The Inter-House Swimming Carnival was a great success and the ISA Swimming Championships are this Friday evening. The Inter-House Cross Country will be held next Wednesday and the ISA Cross Country is on Saturday 20 March. We will then see the start of the winter sports season. We are enjoying the season of the "Evie and the Birdman" and the Inter-House Music Competition will occur during Weeks 8B, 9A and 10B. In addition, many other groups within the school have been busy throughout the term. Indeed a very important part of each student's experience at Oxley College is within the various co-curricular offerings. I encourage all students to participate widely and enjoy the wonderful opportunities at Oxley College.

There are many benefits for each student as they participate in co-curricular activities. They have the opportunity for enjoyment; to acquire skills in particular activities, to develop teamwork skills, to experience new activities and to proudly represent Oxley College in an appropriate manner. The students get a lot out of the activities they participate in, with significant benefits for them as individuals when the breadth and depth of their co-curricular involvement increases.

At times we allow the students to lose sight of the benefits they gain from their participation and focus only on personal recognition. Unfortunately it can be the important adults in a student's life (parents, coaches, teachers) who lead the focusing on personal rewards. In doing so they are forgetting, or minimising, the many benefits a student gains from their participation in co-curricular activities. The key to success is to focus on the process and learning from both success and failure.

To allow any student or team to become focused on what is to be the recognition for their participation and accomplishments is inappropriate for any coach or parent. The focus on personal recognition is distracting and can be destructive. The rewards for the students are outlined above and should be reinforced. This reinforcement is most effective when it is a consistent message both at home and at school.

We recognise in Assembly team achievements and particular individual achievements. The Awards Policies are printed in the Student Diary on pages 37 and 38 and I refer parents to this information. Whilst the presentations at Assemblies are about recognition, we need to assist each student in their reflection on what they have gained from their co-curricular involvement during this Term and why it is important to their development.

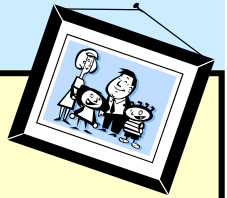
I particularly thank the staff who provide these opportunities. Their enthusiasm, willingness to participate and encouragement to the students are all vital to Oxley College providing a broad and successful co-curricular program.

Virtues

Wisdom and knowledge are about using our brains to acquire and use knowledge. The fourth of the attributes under wisdom and knowledge is **Love of learning**. The **Love of learning** is about enjoying learning new skills, new topics, and new bodies of knowledge.

YEAR 7 MORNING TEA

Year 7 parents are invited to join us for morning tea on Thursday 25 March after drop off at 8:45am. Come and join Mr Williamson and Year 7 parents for a catch up and cup of tea! There is no need to RSVP just come to the canteen area on the day.



FAMILIES WHEN THEY WORK WELL

I sometimes think that the only reason parents put up with children and children put up with their parents is to play a game in the evening and to forget their battle of the day –William Saroyan.

Being a parent is equivalent to involving yourself in a debate that lasts for decades. One debating team wants change: sometimes the debate centers on more freedoms or staying up later, sometimes it centers on more help around the house. The other team wants things to stay pretty much the same - they are comfortable, and stability is what they argue for. Just when you think you've got the teams worked out and who knows who is on which side they seem to forget their lines, argue against their best interests or simply change teams.

This debate between changing and staying the same is essential in that it is the 'engine room' of growth and development for families therefore, it is important to think about what families do well.

CAREERS CORNER by Phillipa Condon, Careers Counsellor

Recently I was able to meet with the Deans of the Faculties of University of Canberra. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk with the heads of a university and they all wanted to give me as much information as possible. Some people do not look to Canberra for tertiary education yet it has so many advantages - high academic performance, cheaper accommodation, and even bonus options not offered in Sydney universities. One in particular that I found most appealing was the Gap Year Plus Programme. Many students these days opt for a Gap year at the completion of Year 12 and some loose the momentum and commitment to return to study. University of Canberra offers a programme that students can enrol for, gather information during their Gap Year and gain credits for their degree once they commence their course at the university. The following is a link to this programme and the courses it covers - <http://www.canberra.edu.au/gap-year-plus/home>.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on a Thursday or Friday either via email or phone or make an appointment to see me by booking online at <http://oxleylearning.org/careers/>.

EVIE AND THE BIRDMAN - WHOLE COLLEGE PRODUCTION

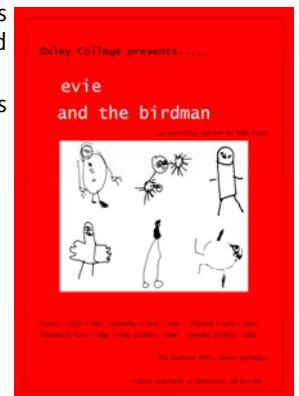
A large cast of enthusiastic Year 7 – 12 students are busy singing, dancing and acting their way through this extremely accessible and enjoyable show written by John Field (brother of Anthony of Wiggles fame and iconic frontman of The Cockroaches in times gone by).

This show was a sell-out last time it was performed, and it will be advisable to book tickets early. Details as follows:

Performances Dates:

- Thursday 4 March
- Thursday 11 March
- Friday 12 March
- Saturday 13 March

All performances take place at 7.30pm in the Hoskins Hall. Tickets available from Oxley College Reception. Adults \$15, Students \$10.



REV (RELIGION, ETHICS, VALUES)

One of the books I have recently read has the title "Complaint - from minor moans to principled protests". It is a thought provoking short book by author and philosopher, Julian Baggini.

The three quotes below come from this book and challenge the perception within our society of the priority of law over ethics:

"Making the concept of legal responsibility central to our ideas of right and wrong enables us to avoid worrying about our moral responsibility. We become less inclined to worry about whether something is morally right just as long as it is legal."

"But as our norms become more and more guided by law and less by an autonomous ethics, we see less reason to take anything into account other than an act's legality."

"Moral responsibility is undermined because morality itself is undermined, replaced with straightforward, unambiguous but ethically shallow legalism."

How should we respond to Baggini's challenge? Grant Williamson.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT

We are currently assisting Year 10 and Year 12 students and their families to prepare applications to receive Special Examination Provisions for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. The Board of Studies introduced Special Provisions to provide the best possible opportunity for students with lower literacy levels, medical conditions or conditions that affect concentration to demonstrate their learning.

Common provisions afforded to those who apply are five minutes of rest time, five minutes of extra writing time and/or five minutes of extra reading time for every half hour of examination time. Some students may also be eligible to have a reader or writer to assist with completion of the examination paper and the Board of Studies will consider other requests unique to specific students. All students receiving Special Provisions are supervised in a space separate to the rest of the year group during examinations.

Students eligible for Special Provisions include those who at some time have received support from a psychologist or psychiatrist, have been diagnosed with an ongoing medical condition or whose reading and writing skills are substantially below their peers. Parents are encouraged to contact Mrs Bronwyn Tregenza, Director of Learning Enrichment to discuss the appropriateness of Special Provisions for their daughter or son if they think s/he may be eligible. Further information is available from <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/special-provisions/>. Bronwyn Tregenza.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SWIMMING—TWILIGHT CARNIVAL

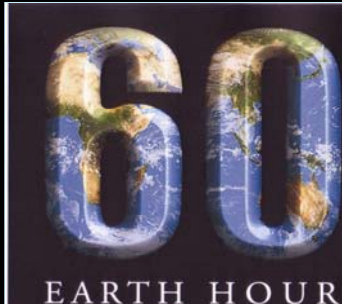
The Oxley Team performed strongly at the Southern Highlands Twilight Carnival with the team placed second on the night. The girl's team narrowly missed first place by three points in the close competition with Chevalier and Frensham. Two new records were set by Tahlia Shaw in the senior girls. All swimmers performed strongly. Congratulations to the following who received medallions as age champions or runner ups; Alex Hughes, Stephens Evans, Zac Moran, Phoebe Dunn, Abby Ismay, Max Moran, Lia Scambary, Stephanie Allman, Hamish Ismay and Georgia Kickert. Max Ingall.


SPORT FIXTURES

SATURDAY 6 MARCH

Team	Opponent	Venue	Time	Team Coach	Transport
Girls Basketball <i>MiC – Ms R Kanaar Mobile 0401 341 525</i>					
1st V	St Andrews	Penrith B/Stadium	2:30pm	Ms R Kanaar	Own Transport
Softball <i>MiC – Mr S Woffenden Mobile 0402 322 450</i>					
1sts	SACS	Blacktown Olympic Park	8:30am	Mr S Woffenden	Departs 6:00am Returns 1:30pm
Junior As	SACS	Blacktown Olympic Park	8:30am	Ms J Culey	Departs 6:00am Returns 1:30pm

EARTH HOUR 2010




 PARENTS' & FRIENDS'
 Invite you to join them for the
Oxley Earth Hour™ Event 2010
 Saturday 27 March from 7pm
 (Earth Hour™ 8.30-9.30pm)
 at Oxley College
 BYO: Personal Lighting
 PRIZE FOR MOST ORIGINAL LIGHTING - NO NAKED FLAMES
 Fabulous silent auction and music on the night.
 Tickets \$40. All drinks & canapes inc. RSVP: 19 March 2010
Printed by Hypocor Printing on Sustainable Plantation Paper Stock.

Earth Hour tickets are now on sale from the Oxley reception or by contacting Penny Lawless on 0418 450 774 or lawlesspenny@gmail.com. Tickets are \$40 each which includes canapés and free bar. There will be music and a fabulous silent auction as well as prizes to be won. The lights will be turned off at 8:30pm so you will need to bring your own personal light source. The evening will begin at 7:00pm on Saturday 27 March and be held in Hoskins Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Nick Madden on his selection in the ISA Basketball Boys Seconds Representative team.

YEAR 10 EXCURSION—AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL (AWM)

On Tuesday 16 February, Year 10 students visited the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. They attended a moving Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Commemorative section of the AWM, and listened to the memories of a naval officer from World War Two. Students then visited the various galleries of the AWM, looking at the differences between the presentations of WW1 and WW2, and the modern post-WW2 conflict galleries which use technology and displays in a way unknown to earlier generations. Students will complete an assignment on the War Memorial as an historical site. Trish Topp.



DUTCH EXPERIENCES

As a result of the College's link with the Dutch school of KSG Apeldoorn parents might like to consider the benefit of one or both of the following:

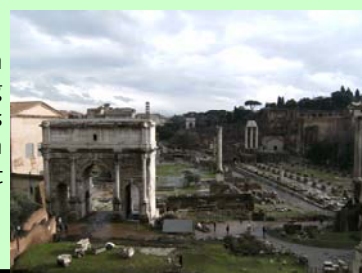
From 22 April – 2 May the College is hosting the visit of 15 Dutch English-language students and two Staff. Mr Craig is looking for billets for all 17 visitors (staff and students) and would appreciate any offers from families who are able to billet a student or staff member. The Dutch students are aged from 16 upwards.

Three Oxley College students (aged from 16) have been invited to attend an International Student Conference in Apeldoorn, the theme of which is peace, safety and commemoration of the day they call Liberation Day (from Nazi occupation). The conference lasts about a week, all accommodation is provided and more details can be found at www.internationalyouthconference.com. Any parents wishing to attend would be most welcome as the group would need a mentor.

If you are interested in either of these activities please email the Director of International Programmes, Peter Craig (Peter.Craig@oxley.nsw.edu.au) immediately. Thank you. Peter Craig.

ANCIENT HISTORY STUDY TOUR—INFORMATION NIGHT

Just a reminder that the information night for next year's Ancient History Study Tour will be held on Wednesday 10 March from 6:00pm in Room 8. A representative from Academy Travel will be joining us to provide the details of our trip and to field any questions. If your son or daughter is interested in joining us for this wonderful trip please come along next Wednesday, whether or not an 'expression of interest' note has been returned. Please contact Jo McVean at jo.mcvean@oxley.nsw.edu.au if you have any queries.



YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING : WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

On Wednesday 10 March in the Orchestra Room, the College will be holding an Information Evening for Year 7 Parents. The proceedings will begin at 7:00pm and should take 45 minutes. The aim of this evening meeting is to aid parents of Year 7 students in the transition from Stage 3 to Stage 4 - from Primary to Secondary - and all that this entails. There will be short presentations outlining the content, expectations, specialisations and assessment practices of English, Mathematics, Science, The Humanities, Languages, Visual Art, Rev, Design and Technology, Music and PDHPE.

This will be followed by some information regarding Streaming, Homework, Examinations, Use of ICT, Use of other Learning Resources and forms of Communication. There will hopefully be time for questions and discussion on each of the aspects covered. We look forward to seeing you there.

P & F NEWS

P & F MEETING

The next P&F meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 16 March in the David Wright Library. This meeting will have an Earth Hour focus and if anyone wishes to lend a hand for this event we would love to see you at the meeting.

EARTH HOUR

We are still looking for products, services or experiences to be donated for the Earth Hour Silent Auction and prizes for the night. Professionally or because of a hobby or pastime you may be able to offer an interesting prize. We are seeking a diverse mixture of prizes at differing price points. If you can donate something or want discuss an idea please contact Penny Lawless on 0418 450 774 or lawlesspenny@gmail.com.

The Earth Hour organisers are also seeking parents to help on the door with tickets, with the setting up and dismantling of the event and the operation of the bar. If you can spare a few hours on the Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March, please contact Lisette Slotboom at lispaul@hinet.net.au.



YEAR 12 PARENTS

Please put this date in your diary – Year 12 Get Together, Friday 4 June 6:30 – 8:30pm. Venue tbc. Invitations to follow.

OXLEY SHOP

Tuesday	12:30pm - 4:00pm	
Wednesday	8:30am -11:30am and 12:30pm – 4:00pm	Saturday trading
Thursday	8:30am - 9:30am and 12:30pm – 2:30pm	20 March 2010
Saturdays	First and Third Saturday of each month 10:00am – 12:00pm	

CALENDAR: TERM ONE 2010

Fri	5/3	Yr. 7 Incurion Maths: Puzzle Day ISA Swimming Carnival, Bus Departs 12:30pm Returns 12:30am
Sat	6/3	ISA Summer Finals State Equestrian Championships, All Day Yr. 12 Music 2, 'Meet the Music' Seminar, All Day
Sun	7/3	State Equestrian Championships, All Day
Mon	8/3	International Women's Day Breakfast, Mittagong Yr. 11 Incurion Geography, Minnows
Tues	9/3	Yr. 12 Ext 1 English Excursion, Police & Justice Museum Yr. 11 DesignTech Excursion Cricket Tour Meeting, Room 26, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Wed	10/3	Inter-House Cross Country Carnival Ancient History Study Tour, Room 8, 6:00pm Yr. 7 Information Evening, Orchestra Room, 7:00pm Yr. 11 & 12 Visual Arts Excursion, Sydney, Bus Depart 8:00am Return 3:20pm
Thurs	11/3	Evie & The Birdman 2010 Production, Hoskins Hall, 7:30pm

CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM 1

Thank you to those who have volunteered in 2009.

Monday 8 March Heidi Coupland	Tuesday 9 March Donna Levin	Wednesday 10 March Jane Kent Sue Allman	Thursday 11 March Catherine Seaton	Friday 12 March Kerrie Leishman
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COMMUNITY NEWS — EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER HOST

Expand your knowledge of other countries, cultures, languages and cuisines and consider opening your door to an international exchange student.

World Education Programme is looking for Volunteer Host Families for International Students arriving in July 2010. Please contact WEP for a free information pack. This will include a photo, a letter from the student and a letter from their parents. It's easier than you think & a fantastic experience for all!

Nikki Medwell, Inbound Exchange Administrator, World Education Programme, (03) 9598 4733, Toll Free: 1300 884 733, Email: nikkimedwell@wep.org.au.