

HEAD'S COMMENT:

Earth Hour and RevivART

I wish to congratulate the Executive of the Oxley College Parents' & Friends' Association and all who assisted with their time or by donation to the Earth Hour event last Saturday evening. The evening was a great success as was the RevivART exhibition. I am aware that these were organised around the availability of the main venue, Hoskins Hall, and I congratulate the P&F, and thank the P&F, for the considerable efforts made to cause minimal disruption to classes. Overall, with the ISA Cross Country on Saturday, it was a very successful weekend for the Oxley Community.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is one of those times we pause to remember our conflicts. We reflect on the bravery, the sacrifice, the freedom, the grief and the loss. We are reminded that Anzac Day is also an occasion to reflect on our History. It is a day that reminds us that if we ignore the lessons of history it is at our peril. It is a day much associated with rituals and symbols and during the ritual and readings we have the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of our forebears, including some of our own families. We will hold our Anzac Day Assembly on Tuesday 28 April during the normal school assembly time.

Oxley College students have traditionally also been involved with the Anzac Day Services held in our local area and our focus this year will be the Services held at Bowral. A Dawn Service will occur at the Bowral War Memorial at 6:00am on Saturday 25 April. Hopefully, many of you will be involved in the main service that commences with a march at 10:35am followed by a service at War Memorial Park commencing at 11:00am. At this service a wreath will be laid by Nat Willoughby (Head Boy) and Kate Allman (Head Girl).

Nat Willoughby and Kate Allman will also lead the Oxley College students who choose to march on the day. I encourage students who are in the area on Anzac Day to join Nat and Kate in the march. We will gather in the Coles Car Park just after 10:00am and we will be in 9th position for the march. The march will move off at 10:35am. The march should conclude just before 11:00am at the War Memorial Park with the service beginning at 11:00am and concluding just before 12 noon.

Oxley College students marching with the College should be in winter uniform. I look forward to seeing many Oxley students on Saturday 25 April as we take time to pause and reflect.

Term One Holidays

School holidays commence at 3:30pm on Thursday 9 April with students and staff returning to school on Tuesday 28 April. Our students actually have close to fourteen weeks of holidays each year. The extra holidays are partly in recognition of the many co-curricular activities that impact at night, on Saturdays and on Sundays during term time. All of this makes academic time extremely important and I am always reluctant to grant leave during term time and I discourage, as far as I possibly can, any extension of vacations and long weekends. The College is also required, by legislation, to ensure that children attend school. Parents need to be aware that a student missing a formal assessment point due to extended holidays would most likely attract a mark of zero and this can have a significant impact on their child's School Certificate (for Year 10 students) or Preliminary Higher School Certificate (for Year 11 students) or Higher School Certificate (for Year 12 students). Whilst I do realise that there are family considerations that make this difficult, leave is granted only in most unusual circumstances and we ask parents to cooperate as far as their child's attendance is concerned. I would also appreciate requests for leave as far in advance as possible to enable due consideration. Notes from parents that arrive to me once leave has been taken are unlikely to be met with approval.

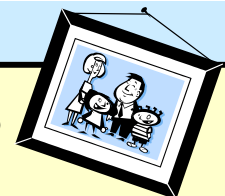
The dates for 2009 and 2010 are available on the Oxley College Website (<http://www.oxleylearning.org/portal/node/48>) and these should assist you with keeping your plans within the school holiday periods.

EARTH HOUR AT OXLEY COLLEGE



LIVING WITH TEENAGERS

Parenting Tips from Jan Ryan



Celia Lashlie (author of *He'll be Okay: Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men*) believes that middle class parents in particular are bringing their children up in such a protected environment that they have no experience of decision making until they are behind the wheel of the car.

She asks whether mothers still make their sons lunches to take to school even when they are at secondary school and urges them to stop so that the boys experience decision making - to get up in time to make a lunch or to spend all their allowance on lunches and run out of funds.

It is important for mothers to understand that it is normal, even desirable, that boys differentiate from their mothers during adolescence. This can feel scary and alienating for their mothers, who remember their nurturing roles in earlier years. Take Heart!!!! If the boys feel secure in the differentiation, you will enjoy a fruitful and close relationship as they grow into adulthood – free of guilt and manipulation.

CAREERS CORNER by PHILLIPA CONDON, CAREERS COUNSELLOR

Year 11 and 12 Parents

As we near the end of Term 1, I have reached the end of my initial interviews with Year 11 students. We have checked subject choices in relation to career aspirations and most students appear comfortable with these. Towards the end of the term Mr Armstrong gave me the UAI Estimator and some Year 11 students had the privilege of a reality check. Year 11, as well as being a foundation for Year 12, enables the students to realise how much work and effort is required to gain a level of achievement. Students made use of their current marks (without a scaling process) and the UAI Estimator created a set of results based on previous statistics for the state cohort.

Many now realise that the effort required to gain a particular level with their UAI is considerably more than previously thought. It is important for this to occur now rather than after the HSC trials. Mr Armstrong and I therefore encourage any Year 12 students who wish to gain an idea as to how they are progressing to see either of us prior to the trials when they still have an opportunity to make an adjustment to their input, rather than after July when the time for change is limited.

If any parents wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Steven Armstrong.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PLAN—LITERACY and NUMERACY

Shortly you will receive a letter outlining the details of the National Assessment Programme for 2009. Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments will be completed for all students in Years 7 and 9. This programme, which has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programmes. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

Tuesday 12 May	Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and
Wednesday 13 May	Reading test.
Thursday 14 May	Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern; Measurement, Chance and Data)

Friday 15 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a particular day. Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website: www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

CALENDAR: TERM ONE 2009

Fri 3/4	SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Tues 7/4	World's Greatest Shave, Hoskins Hall at 10:30pm
Wed 8/4	Music Night, Orchestra Room, 7:30 pm
Thurs 9/4	Holidays
Sat 25/4	ANZAC DAY
Tues 28/4	Term 2 commences

PEER TUTORING at OXLEY COLLEGE

The Learning Enrichment Department at Oxley College offers a variety of literacy programmes to students with ongoing literacy challenges. One of which is a Peer Tutoring Literacy Programme (PTLP). This programme is designed to cater for secondary students in Years 7 and 8 who have below average or well below average reading and comprehension skills. It has been successfully implemented at Oxley College for a number of years and has significantly improved students' literacy levels.

Students are invited to participate based on individual assessment and subject teacher recommendations. Letters will be sent out this week, inviting your child to participate, if they fit the criteria.

The junior student (tutee) will be matched with a Year 11 student (tutor) who will work with them on a daily basis for a period of twenty to thirty minutes. The senior tutor has undertaken comprehensive training in reading and comprehension support and instruction. Each tutoring session will be supervised by Mrs Watson and feedback is given when necessary to individualise your child's tutoring programme.

The PTLP will run each morning during terms two and three, commencing at 8:30am sharp. The programme will commence on the second day of next term, Wednesday 29 April, in the David Wright Library.

Please contact me if you have any enquires or questions about the programme.

Elizabeth Watson

Director of Learning Enrichment

SPORTS NEWS

Cross Country Report

Last Saturday, a large team of Oxley cross country runners travelled to Central Coast Grammar School to compete at the 2009 ISA Cross Country Championships. All runners are to be commended for their performances. In the boys division, Oxley was placed 2nd in the Intermediates and the girls were 3rd in the Intermediates and 2nd in the Seniors, placing Oxley 3rd overall in the girls division.

Particular congratulations to those fifteen runners who managed to place within the top eight in their individual age groups, securing them a position in the ISA Team:

Boys:

13 years: James Sutherland 6th

16 years: Henry Hobson 3rd, Thomas Hobson 5th and Cameron Patterson 7th

17 years: Stephen McNaught 5th

Girls:

12 years: Olivia Spring 1st and Zoe Binder 2nd

15 years: Stephanie Allman 2nd, Madeleine Monro 6th & Charlotte Waugh 8th

16 years: Tamara Grant 8th, Georgie Meredith 10th (placing her as 2nd reserve).

17 years: Katrina Allman 1st and Kate Rutherford 8th

18 years: Katie Wise 2nd, and Jacinta Veyerman 6th.

Additional runners selected for the ISA Team are:

Helena Brecht and Victoria Walker .

These runners will now go on to represent ISA at the CIS Cross Country Championships, which will be held at Eastern Creek on the Thursday 28 May. A big thank you goes to all the parents and staff, particularly Mr Ingall and Mrs Ryan for all of their organisation and help in the lead up to the event and on the day of competition, it was much appreciated.

Katie Wise, Girls Cross Country Captain



Kate Allman, Libby Gardiner,
Anneleise Nappa and Montana Mays

SPORT FIXTURES- SATURDAY 4 APRIL

Rugby

Chevalier College Gala Day (Chevalier College, Daramalan—Canberra, Trinity—Goulburn, Oxley College).

First game at 9:40am and Final Game at 3:40pm. Each team will play three games throughout the day.

It is important all players arrive 40 minutes before their first game and report to their coach. Please check the Oxley College website for all game times.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Luther Canute (Year 7) who scored 55 not out in last Saturday's final of the U 14 Highlands District Cricket Association Final playing for Bowral McGrath's against Bowral Waugh's. He carried his bat throughout the innings to ensure victory for his team against older and more favoured opponents.
- The following students who have been selected in the ISA swimming team to compete at the NSW CIS Carnival on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 April; Billie van Beek, Talissa Robins, Tori Eaglen, Morgan Sheargold, Georgia Kickert, Tahlia Shaw, Annabel Blake and Kate Allman.
- Stephanie Allman and Belinda McNaught who gained selection in the U/16 ISA hockey team.
- Amy Lomax who has been selected in ISA Open Girls Touch Football.

PHYSICS EXCURSION

On Tuesday 24 March, the Year 11 Physics Class went on a Physics in Motion excursion to the new Driver Training Facility near Marulan. Students were involved in a range of theory and hands-on experiences to do with speed, acceleration, deceleration, friction, inertia and g-forces as they apply to motor vehicles.



LIBRARY NEWS from PETAH FISHBURN

Please note: The Library will be CLOSED after school on Thursday, April 9, 2009. There will be **no** after school supervision in the Library on this day. The Library will be closed for the school holidays. Enjoy a happy and safe Easter Holiday. See you next term @ your library.

THE OXLEY SHOP

Tuesday 12.30pm - 4.00pm
 Wednesday 8.30am - 11.30am and 12.30pm - 4.00pm
 Thursday 8.30am - 9.30am and 12.30pm - 2:30pm
 Saturdays First and Third Saturday of each month 10.00am - 12.00 noon
 The Oxley Shop will be closed for the first week of the holidays, April 14-18.
 Normal trading hours will resume on Tuesday 21 April.

Term 1 Saturday trading

April 4

CANTEEN ROSTER – WEEK 11A

<u>Monday 6 April</u>	<u>Tuesday 7 April</u>	<u>Wednesday 8 April</u>	<u>Thursday 9 April</u>	<u>Friday 3 April</u>
Annie MacKay	Philippa Sanderson Jill Howarth	Help required	Help required	Good Friday

P & F NEWS

The next P & F meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 May at 7:30pm in the David Wright Library.

EARTH HOUR and REVIVART COMPETITION

On Saturday 28 March, Oxley College held its inaugural Earth Hour Event. This comprised a Cocktail Party which showcased the RevivArt competition sponsored by the BDCU and Wingecarribee Shire Council, Resource Recovery Centre which had over 50 imaginative entrants.

The College was transformed into a twinkling fairy land with tea lights lighting the way towards the Hoskins Hall. Inside the hall, swathed in black velvet, around 200 guests chatted and swayed to the music of Jo Casely, Jazz duo Kjell Goyer & Marc Scotland and Year 7 parents Michael & Alison Bunyan. Bidding was furious at the Silent Auction table and Earth balloons sold out in the first hour!

When the lights went out at 8:30pm and Earth Hour began, the Oxley Community joined the rest of the world in a global effort to focus attention on the threat of climate change by demonstrating that they were willing to be part of the solution. The buzz of chat increased as everyone turned on their personal lights and there was an audible groan when the lights came back on at 9:30pm!

None of these events take place without enormous effort on the part of a few, however the Oxley and wider Southern Highlands' community really came on board and also supported this initiative. Whether it was in styling, food preparation, offering goods or services, helping in set up or on the night or the myriad of tasks that need to be done to make it all seem effortless, they were all vital cogs in the wheel. We hope that not only have we raised over \$11,000 for the College but that we have also forged friendships.

We thank the following parents for their incredible contribution in helping to organise the event:

Tina Allen, Sue and Jim Allman, Kate Armstrong, Kim Ashbrook, Michael and Alison Bunyan, Liz Cant, Philip and Julie Chapman, Barbara Cuttell, Penny Graham, Paul Greethead, Kate Guthrey, Carol Hartley, James Hobson, Sue and Roger Lane, John and Penny Lawless, Mandy Lawson, Antonia Loneragan, Annie Mackay, Rob Matthews, Sue Meredith, Alison Morellec, Terry Muller-Maher, Eric and Alex Priebee, Roberto Ratalino, Henry and Rebecca Reid, Roger and Katie Scanlon Bloor, Serena Schulz, Lisette Slotboom, Brett and Michelle Sargeant, Chrissie Stanford, Frances Tefany, Stuart Udy, Caroline Traill, Jenny Vild, Bruce and Sue Walker, Anthea Young Whitford and Gina Woodhill.

Due to Weekly Record space constrictions, please see next weeks issue in which we wish to list and thank all those who kindly donated prizes.

Please note: There are some uncollected balloon prizes in Emma Calver's office - numbers 12, 29 & 30.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Harvest Hunt

On Easter Sunday 12 April The Southern Highlands Foundation will be holding a major community event – the Highlands Harvest Hunt at Centennial Vineyards in Bowral. The event is raising money for The Southern Highlands Foundation children and young people's programmes and will open at 9.30am and close at 2.30pm. The day will include Easter hunts, local entertainment, Farmer Market stalls and wonderful food and wine. Tickets are available from Tourism Southern Highlands 1300 657 559.

Moss Vale Basketball Competition

The Junior Winter Basketball Competition Registration Day will be held on Wednesday 8 April (5:30 – 7:00pm) and Wednesday 29 April (4:00-6:00pm). The Junior Competition begins on Wednesday 6 May. The Senior Winter Competition begins on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May 2009. Team nominations close: Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 April. Download information and registration forms from website www.mossvale.basketball.net.au

School Holiday Golf Clinics

School holiday golf clinics with PGA Professionals Davyd Reeves and Robert Kennedy will be held on Wednesday 15, Sunday 19 and Wednesday 22 April. The clinics will be held at Mr Broughton Golf and County Club from 9am – 3pm. The cost is \$50 per day or \$120 for 3 days. Open to all ages. Bookings are essential: 4868 3700.

Tom's Women, Mittagong Playhouse

A play inspired by famous Australian painter Tom Roberts will be performed at the Mittagong Playhouse on Saturday 4 April at 7:30pm. Tickets cost \$25/\$15 group discounts available. Tickets are available through Southern Highlands Visitors Centre and Angus and Robertson, Bowral.

Interactive Workshops in Forensics and Cyber Crime Investigation

High school students aged 15 – 18 years with an interest in Science, forensics or general CSI curiosity are invited to attend a two day hands-on workshop at the University of NSW in Kensington. The cost is \$300 per student for both workshop sessions. These workshops will be held during the Autumn and Winter Holidays. Call 1800 727 640 for more details and bookings.