



Weekly Record

Friday, 27 March 2009

HEAD'S COMMENT:

Special Provisions for the HSC

In December last year, much was made by Greens NSW MP John Kaye about the Higher School Certificate's Special Examination Provisions Programme offering "unfair advantage". These comments have continued on air and in the papers since. On Thursday 12 March, a letter was published in the Sydney Morning Herald that was co-authored by the following who represent the majority of schools in NSW:

Verity Firth, Minister for Education; Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director-General, Department of Education; John Bennett, General Manager, Board of Studies; Brian Croke, Executive Director, Catholic Education Commission; Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools, and Jim McAlpine, President NSW Secondary Principals Council.

The letter included comment that "Accusations of bias are insulting to students with disabilities and their families, as well as the professionalism of teachers in government and non-government schools." The letter also makes it very clear that the Special Provisions Programme and the application of the provisions meet the requirements and standards of the Disabilities Discrimination Act (1992) and stand up to independent audits. The audit is carried out by the chartered accountants Walter Turnbull and the former head of the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, Jan Keightley.

The letter also comments "The provision granted may well be a hand towel. Students with disabilities who complete school deserve praise, not insinuation and ridicule. The Special Provision programme is fair. It avoids expensive medical certification, removes disadvantage and meets the principles of legal and social justice."

Whilst I understand that The Australian Greens are committed to a policy to fund and support a high quality public education system, Mr Kaye's comments are not about building a strong public education system but taking 'cheap shots' at private education. Unfortunately this is particularly inappropriate for those students with disabilities. I would hope that those people we elect to build a future in Australia do so by being well informed and by building, not by attempting to tear down, what they do not understand.

Valuables and Theft

I have made the following comments at Tuesday's Assembly and recently run the following in the Daily Announcements for the students:

"We have someone stealing from our change rooms and from bags! This may be someone from outside the school or it may be someone from our own community. Theft is a most anti-social act. It destroys trust and it creates an atmosphere of unease and uncertainty. We can not tolerate this activity, and to protect all of us we must almost always remove any member of our community found guilty of theft.

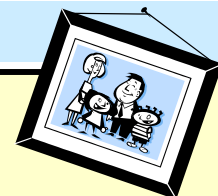
But there are also things you can do to help. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around the school, inform a staff member straight away. Your valuables are best left at home, not brought to school.

When changing for sport or PE you should not leave a mobile phone or wallet in your bag. Your locker is a better option but remember that lockers are not meant to be safes. If you have to bring to school something of value and cannot carry it with you, arrange with a member of staff, or the office, for its temporary safekeeping, make sure it is named, and remember to collect it again promptly. But remember that, apart from your bus pass and a little money, you should not bring valuable things to school at all."

Unfortunately we also have items of clothing taken. Can I ask parents to ensure their child's clothing is clearly named and to check that the Oxley College clothing their child has belongs to them.

NICHOLAS DAZOS

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Nicholas Dazos, father of Marcus Year 8, Michael (Year 12 2008), Arthur (Year 12 2007) passed away on Saturday 21 March after a brief illness. All our thoughts and warmest support go to the Dazos family during this tragic time. A Remembrance Service will be held on Thursday 26 March at 2pm on the Bowral Country Club Green followed by refreshments at the Club at 3pm.



More from Celia Lashie's book; *He'll be Okay: Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men*

Celia Lashie outlines the common characteristics of teenage boys which mothers in particular find it difficult to come to terms with.

In the second year at secondary school most of the boys turn into what she describes as "a monosyllabic grunter". Mothers think that their boys have grown up and talk to them as to adults but they are not yet grown up and are going through what she describes as "the most dangerous year". They are very self-absorbed at this time and everything they choose to say or do is selected because they see it as to their advantage. It is a crucial time to impose restrictions on their freedom, and they are very ready to declare that other parents allow their sons more freedom. Lashie recommends that parents confer with each other about what freedom the boys should be given, especially with regard to parties and the time they are expected to be home.

CAREERS CORNER by PHILLIPA CONDON, CAREERS COUNSELLOR

Our first Careers information session for the year, conducted by the University of Wollongong on Friday 13 March, was a success. Thirty one students from Years 11 and 12 attended during their lunch hour and many said that although Wollongong was not their choice for university it was an informative time.

On Tuesday 7 April, a Professor from the Maths and Science faculty of University of Wollongong will be coming to discuss these subjects with interested Year 11 and 12 students as well as explaining the UAI.

On the same day, Year 10 students will have an introduction to the university with the Professor discussing general subject choices and also UAI. During Term 2, I will be spending time in the class with Year 10 students explaining why subjects they do at school are important and how they can benefit from them in the "real world". They will also have the opportunity to apply for a Tax File number, if required, in preparation for part time work. Following on from this will be a session about budgeting and what is involved in modifying a lifestyle to reflect a set income. These sessions will form part of the preparation for Australian Business Week which is held later in the year.

If any parents would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact me.

ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY

There has been some media coverage about students and teachers having a holiday on Monday 27 April 2009 (when the rest of the community do not) and schools commencing on Tuesday 28 April. This is due to an error when the NSW Government first published the holidays for 2009. ANZAC Day should only attract a separate Monday holiday if the 25th April falls on a Sunday, not a Saturday.

Oxley College follow AHISA (Association of Heads of Independent Schools in Australia) School Term Dates and these have been published well in advance. Students and all staff will return to school and commence Term Two on Tuesday 28 April as previously published. Oxley College will be closed on Monday 27 April.

CALENDAR: TERM ONE 2009

Sat 28/3	P & F Function, Oxley Earth Hour, Hoskins Hall, 7:00pm to 10:00pm ISA Cross Country, Central Coast Grammar
Sun 29/3	Junk Art Exhibition, Oxley College, Hoskins Hall, 11:00am—3:00pm
Mon 30/3	Australian Geography Competition – during classes
Tue 31/3	Australian Geography Competition – during classes Inter-House Music – Senior Vocal, Orchestra Room, 1:00pm to 1:30pm
Wed 1/4	Australian Geography Competition – during classes Year 12 English Exc, Justice & Police museum 8:15am to 5:00pm Year 9 Parent /Teacher Meeting, P E Centre, 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Thurs 2/4	Australian Geography Competition – during classes Exc. Yr 11/12 Visual Art to Art Express 8:15am to 3:15pm Inter-House Music – Junior Vocal, Orchestra Room, 1:20pm to 1:50pm
Fri 3/4	Australian Geography Competition – during classes SCHOOL PHOTO DAY



The new Oxley College 2009 Student Representative Council with Mrs Hanrahan.

Prah Mana from Sunnataram Forest Monastery at Bundanoon was Oxley's guest at Assembly this week talking about our theme for this term - gratitude. Prah Mana is pictured with Grant Williamson and Kim McSweeney.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

The following school photos will be taken on Friday 3 April –

Year Groups and individuals

House Groups

Family Photos

Please ensure your child wears full school uniform, including blazer. Long hair should be tied back and clean regulation school shoes worn. If you have not received an order envelope via your child, please contact the College.

Each student MUST have their own completed envelope even if another sibling is paying for the family. The College is not responsible for collecting money on the day or taking orders after Friday 3 April. Please direct all enquiries to Advanced Life Photography 1300 728 972 or enquiries@advancedlife.com.au.

There is an additional envelope called 'sibling photos' – please ask your child to collect one from Student Services for family photos.

Lost Property: A pair of reading glasses were found after the P & F AGM in February. Please contact the Oxley office if your glasses are missing!

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 & 18

CANTEEN ROSTER – WEEK 10B

<u>Monday 30 March</u>	<u>Tuesday 31 March</u>	<u>Wednesday 1 April</u>	<u>Thursday 2 April</u>	<u>Friday 3 April</u>
Tiffany Northall	Ana Smedley	Jane Kent	Meggie O'Toole	Sally Bailey

SPORTS NEWS

Visit of the Cobargo Dry River Cricket Club to Oxley College

Last Saturday, in glorious autumn weather, Oxley College welcomed an Under 13 cricket team from Cobargo on the Far South Coast of NSW. The team was accompanied by coach Mr Guy Lingard and Mr Paul Schaefer, son of Mr Helmut Schaefer.

A 30-over-a-side cricket match was played on the main Oxley oval between the visitors from Cobargo and an Oxley Junior representative team. Kieran Springett, the Oxley captain, won the toss and elected to bat. Alistair Marnoch (21) and Angus O'Connell (33 not out) got the team off to a great start and there was further good batting from Justin Middleton (32) and April Wells (13). The team ended its innings with a competitive score of 9-168.

Both teams enjoyed a hearty barbecue lunch at the break.

Cobargo got off to a whirlwind start against some shaky Oxley bowling and fielding and after 15 overs the visitors were 0-109!

Much better fielding and particularly good bowling from Jonathan Liu (2-12) and Declan Moore, however, left Cobargo needing seven runs to win off the final over. This was achieved with just two balls to spare, the winning run scored by Nathan Schaefer, Mr Schaefer's grandson who scored 36 not out!

After a late tea and presentations of certificates, caps and medallions, the Cobargo players left with their Oxley billets for an enjoyable evening, to return next morning for a visit to the Bradman Museum. Oxley hopes to make a return visit to the Cobargo club next season.

Declan Moore presents
Marcus Dazos with the
Player's Player Award on
Saturday.



ISA CROSS COUNTRY—CENTRAL COAST GRAMMAR

Saturday 28 March

The ISA Cross Country bus departs Oxley at 7:00am returning at 5:15pm.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2009

The carnival was run during sport on Wednesday 18 March in warm conditions. Distances included 3000m, 4000m, 6000m and 8000m for the senior boys.

The number of students who ran competitively was impressive and it was pleasing to see all students enjoying the carnival. The top eight place getters in each age group (4 in U12) have been selected in the Oxley College Cross Country Team to compete at the ISA Cross Country Championships at Central Coast Grammar School this weekend.

Results	1. Dobell	2. Oodgeroo	3. Mawson	
Girls		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
	12 Yrs	Olivia Spring	Zoe Binder	Victoria Walker
	13 Yrs	Helena Brecht	Phoebe Dunn	Felicity Weal
	14 Yrs	Lia Scambary	Ella Scanlan-Bloor	Morgan Wood
	15Yrs	Stephanie Allman	Charlotte Waugh	Maddie Monroe
	16 Yrs	Tamara Grant	Georgina Meredith	Belinda McNaught
	17 Yrs	Kate Allman	Kate Rutherford	Tahlia Shaw
	18 Yrs	Katie Wise	Amy Scambary	Jacinta Veyerman
Boys	12 Yrs	Oliver Taylor-Helme	Cosi Hofman	Adolfo Bella
	13 Yrs	James Sutherland	Anthony Uliana	Harry Calver
	14 Yrs	Daniel Bollom	Hugh Walker	Jacob Thanning
	15Yrs	Ed Sutherland	Denash Kumar	James Allen
	16 Yrs	Tom Hobson	Henry Hobson	Ian Downes
	17 Yrs	Stephen McNaught	Andrew Vild	Nick Allen
	18Yrs	Ed Lewis	John Downes	Ben Farrow

P & F NEWS

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

OXLEY P & F EARTH HOUR EVENT — Saturday 28 March

There is now not long to go before millions of people around the world will be switching their lights off for one hour between 8:30pm and 9:30 pm on Saturday 28 March. This popular movement which began only a few years ago in Sydney is now being embraced by numerous large cities from many countries to focus our attention on the many environmental issues that face our planet today.

You too can get involved in this global event right here at Oxley College. The Earth Hour Night being run by the P&F on Saturday 28 March will be a wonderful evening.

We look forward to seeing you on the night and recommend you bring a torch or some sort of independent light source (no naked flames allowed). The money raised from this event will be used to fund new screens at the Canteen to help keep out the rain and cold.

You can buy your tickets at the door if you still haven't got around to getting them from the office. The event starts at 7.00 pm at Hoskins Hall, Oxley College.



RevivART – a Junk Art Competition at Oxley College. Open for Public Viewing Sunday 29 March 11am – 3pm in Hoskins Hall. Prize giving at 12 noon. All welcome.

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 Days will be held on Wednesday 1 & 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 28 March and Saturday 4 April at 7:30pm and Sunday 29 March at 2pm.

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.