

PINOAK

ISSUE 79: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

OXLEY VILLAGE

YEAR 10 FILM
FESTIVAL AT THE
EMPIRE

ENDING THE
YEAR ON A
POSITIVE

PREMIER'S
READING
CHALLENGE

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

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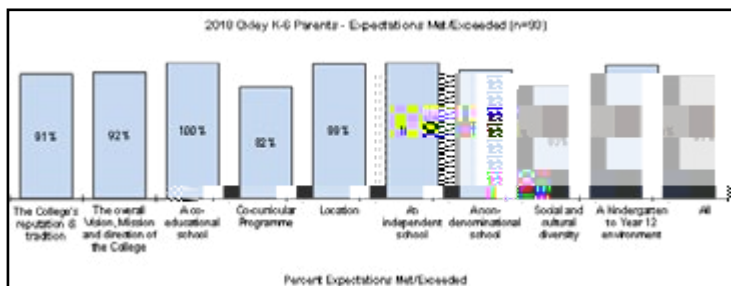
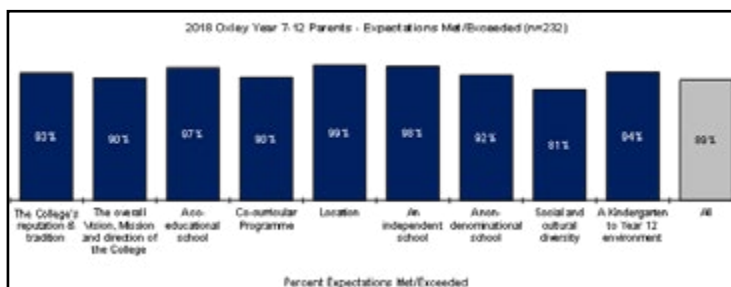
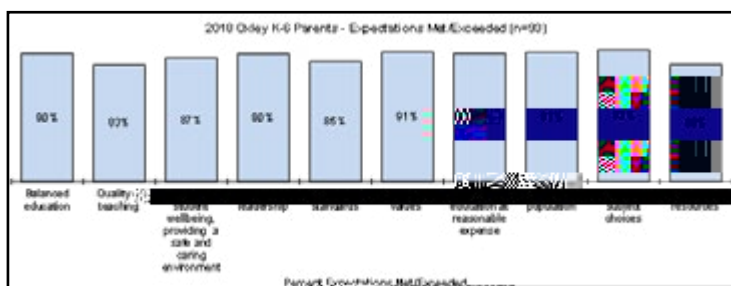
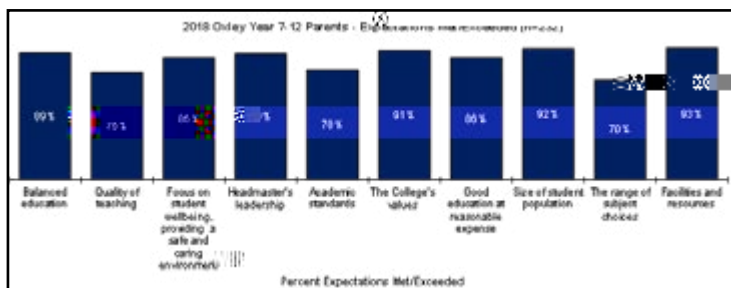
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Dear Parents,

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 subject areas noted.



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.

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.

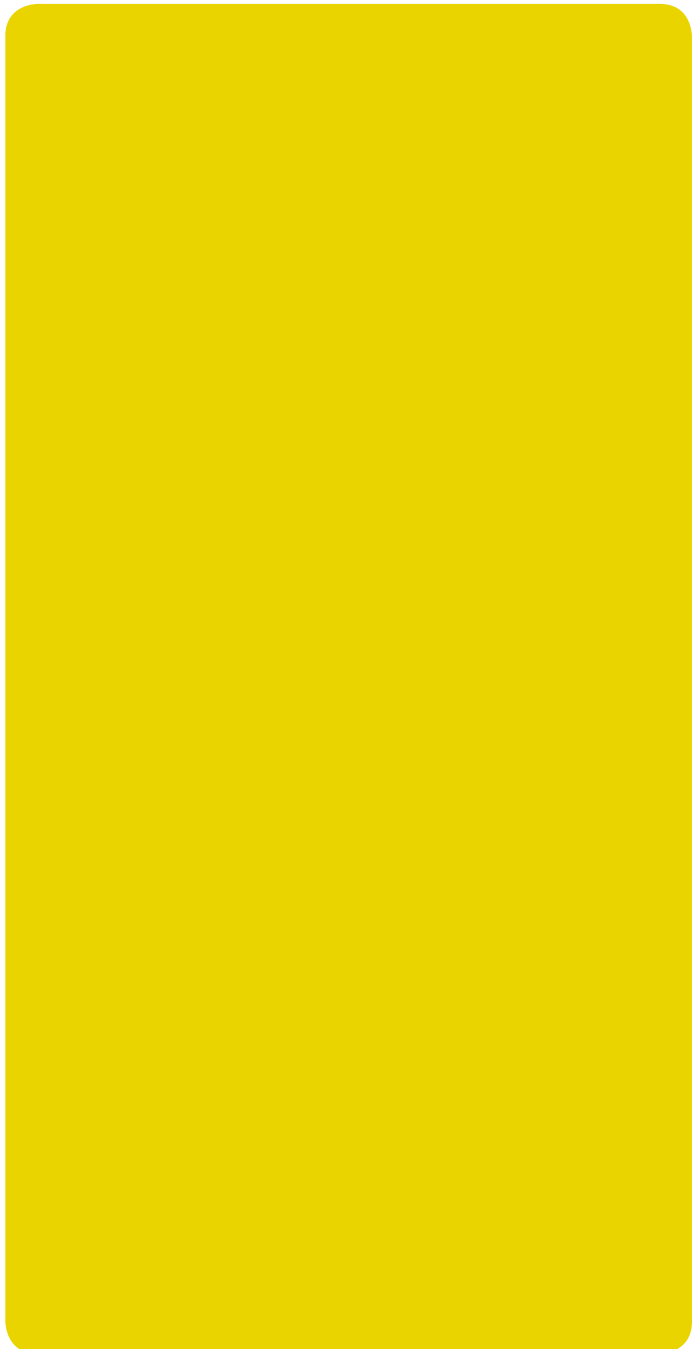
Thirdly, we finally got an Occupation Certificate for the Multi-purpose courts on Tuesday at 1.35pm. Kids

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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

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



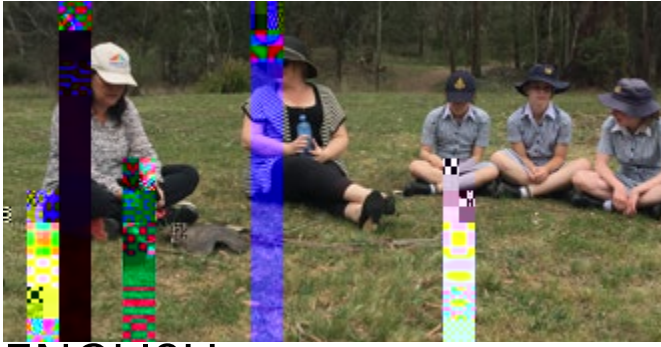


Relax

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

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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



HSC NOMINATIONS

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.

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.

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.



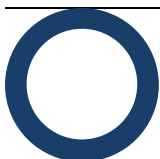
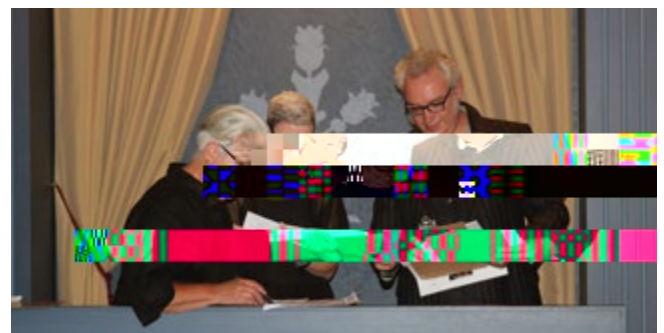
WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...



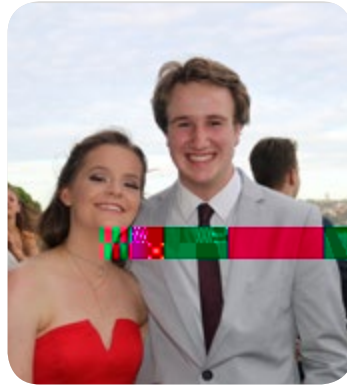
**WINGECARRIBEE
RIVER CARE
BURFADOO**

3rd FRIDAY of the month
11am - midday

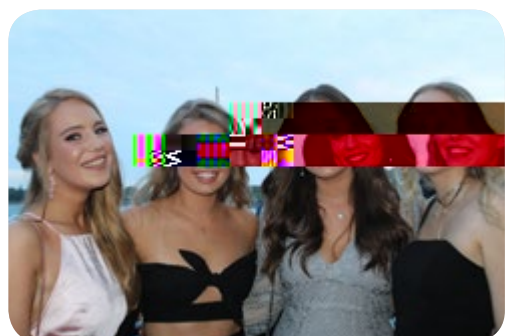
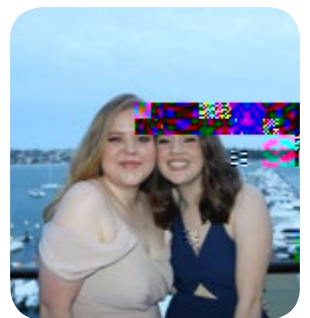
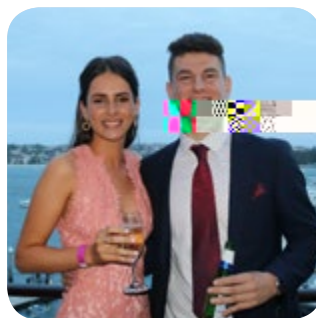
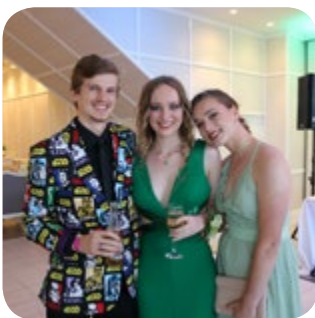
New volunteer registration
Call Council 4868 0888



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



GALLERY



NEWSFLASH



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 fare of a sport that is rapidly growing, not just at Oxley or locally but across the country.

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)