



The Newsletter of
Oxley Christian College

Issue No 2
23 February 2017

From the Principal

Dear Friends,

I am sure you will enjoy reading about the many wonderful activities taking place at the College in this edition. It was a pleasure to share both leadership investitures with families and friends, and Senior School Investiture welcomed The Honorable Christine Fyffe MP to speak with our students about leadership and present their badges. We also welcomed Jakob Jones, in recognition of his outstanding achievement as 2016 Dux of the College.

Whilst all these events have been bubbling away, students have begun the new year of learning in earnest.

I shared with our staff the inspirational work of John Amos Comenius, a theologian and educator (1592-1670), who wrote several books on education. These earned him the name *Father of Modern Education* with some universities being named after him in the West. He lived in Moravia, roughly where Czechoslovakia is now.

Comenius believed children were precious gifts from God to be cherished, rather than annoyances to be suppressed. However unimportant they may seem, he wrote, children are actually of inestimable importance and should be treated as if more precious than gold. They (girls and boys) should be showered with love, and school material should be adapted to their ability to learn.

Comenius said that the combination of words and pictures is more powerful than either alone, and the two should always go together in children's texts. Learning should move from the simpler to the more

complex, with repetition and review so that the learner will gain mastery. Perhaps we can see how extraordinarily revolutionary these views were for that time?

Comenius' most impressive writing referred to his image of humanity being placed in a garden of delight by God. This is in fact what Paradise means; a garden of delights, in that, *"God, having created man out of dust, placed him in a Paradise of desire, which he had planted in the East, not only that man might tend it and care for it, but also that he might be a garden of delight for his God."* (The Great Didactic, by Comenius).

This is a thoroughly biblical picture with the Wisdom literature indicating that we may enjoy the pleasure to be derived from God, from his creatures and from ourselves, and that ... (Christ/Wisdom) is filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in (God's) presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in humankind. (Proverbs 8).

I sought to convey this picture of learning as a delightful garden with new experiences, new landscapes, new trees, in fact, new 'everything' as a metaphor for how we might see education at Oxley. The classroom can indeed grow into a place where children long to be and to cherish the learning that is happening through inspired teaching and guided inquiry. It can be thought of as a place of delight for students as well as being delightful for teachers.

With this picture in mind, I suggest the theme for our time together this year might simply be *delight*.

Douglas Peck



Year 5 Sovereign Hill Camp

"I am the vine; you are the branches". John 15:5a

Devotion

Vision

When I was learning to drive, my dad was always good for advice. Advice like, *check your blind spot before you change lanes, take off slowly in the wet so you don't spin the wheels, don't pull on the handbrake and slide around corners like you are a rally car driver... because... you're not!* Helpful advice like that.

One key piece of advice Dad gave, was to always look as far ahead as you can, to look to the horizon. Allow your eyes to pick up any detail or movement in between.

One night, driving home from a family Christmas gathering in farming country and bush area, Dad suddenly squeezed the brakes. I leant over from my side seat to the middle and looked out through the front window but I couldn't see it. As he brought the car to a stop, there it was. The biggest kangaroo I had ever seen. As it stood up, it was taller than our car! We sat there staring at it, it staring back, contemplating what might have happened if we had collided with this beast at high speed. Then, just like that, it jumped slowly out of our way, down the side of the car and just to let us know who was boss, he gave the car a hip and shoulder, right at my window. The whole car shook! It was like he was saying *don't shine those bright lights in my eyes ever again!*



Dad impressed me with his long range vision. Because he was looking well ahead, he had picked up on something no one else could see and he was able to take the appropriate action.

Proverbs 29:18 says, *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.* (NIV)

In the King James version it says *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.*

The truth in the verse, is that without a vision, without God's direction in our lives, we are bound to struggle.

Noah was given a vision from God to go and build a boat. He was told how big it would be - three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. He knew what the ark's purpose was - to protect himself, his family and two of every kind of animal from the floodwaters.



Because of that vision Noah then knew what he needed to do, to prepare for what was to come. Perhaps it was to learn how to saw, or how to draw up schematics or plans of how the boat was to come together. Perhaps he needed to sit down and devise ways of collecting and transporting large quantities of timber.

What is God preparing you for? Have you asked him to reveal some of it to you? A vision excites us and motivates us. When our goal is to win the premiership, we train and we discipline ourselves, we encourage the team around us and we fight for the prize.

However, a vision might also scare us a little. Imagine how daunting the task must have looked at first to Noah? And that's ok. It's probably why God doesn't always show us every detail up front. Having a long term vision or goal keeps us on track, it protects us from harm, it gives us focus and provides motivation.

Knowing deeply that God has a unique and powerful calling for each and everyone of us, and knowing that we are doing life within that, is one of the biggest thrills we can experience!

Dare to ask God this year *Lord, what is it you are calling me to? God, give me vision, a purpose in this life and then Lord, please equip me and help me to see it come to pass!*

**Pastor Matt
Chaplain**

Senior School

We often receive comments from the general public about how well our students present, or that one of our students performed a random act of kindness, whether offering up a seat on a bus or helping to move furniture from the station. It would be really easy to sit back and ignore the fact that *it takes a whole village to raise a child*. We greatly appreciate the spirit of cooperation with which parents and the College work toward our common goal of raising precious children. And thank you to every student for their generosity and kindness, even when no one is looking.

Recently Adeline Lim, our VCE Coordinator, hosted the VCE Information Evening and it was an excellent opportunity to provide some insight into the rigours, rules and language used in the VCE. We welcomed back Jakob Jones and Sandra Li, who, shared captaincy, vice captaincy and Dux of School accolades in 2016, to talk candidly with parents about their VCE experiences. The parents greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear about the VCE generally and specifically Year 12.

The next evening saw the opposite end of the Senior School spectrum with Year 7 Information Night hosted by Kristi Reeves, the Year 7 Coordinator. An exceptional turnout with a real feeling of support and peace, amidst the levity of information sessions, as our youngest Senior School students, and their families, settle in to their year.

Some of the parents who attended both nights even came to the Senior School Swimming Carnival on Thursday! It was great to see families at the carnival supporting their children. From the moment it was opened in prayer by **Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner (12.7)** until the moment it was closed in prayer by **Jacob Bell (12.10)**, it was a superb day where students competed and encouraged each other in great spirit and their excellent behaviour was testament to their character. A well-deserved win to the Zion Crusaders (Blue House) and a rousing victory speech which acknowledged the spirit of competition and participation from all involved.

Solomon writes in Proverbs 22:6, *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

I believe the wisdom of Solomon's era is just as valid today. We give God thanks for the opportunity to work with parents in helping young people to know who they are, who God is, and how to achieve their best in all aspects of life. It is a great joy and we are thankful for the trust you have placed in us.

Greg Barker
Deputy Principal - Head of Senior School

Junior School

Our students have confidently settled into the routine of school now that we have almost completed Week 4. Students across the school have set personal learning goals and are working hard to produce their best work. Homework routines have also commenced.



Junior School Captains Thomas, Ava, Jack and Brooke with Sharee Gaiser and Douglas Peck

On Wednesday 22 February our Year 4-6 students participated in the House Swimming Sports at Kilsyth Centenary Pool. Our students welcomed support from their parents and House as they competed in a range of events. We were so blessed with warm weather too! Congratulations to the winning House, which will be announced in the next edition of The Vine.

Tonight we look forward to welcoming all parents new to Oxley at our annual New Parents Coffee Evening. Following this time, all Junior School parents are invited to attend the Curriculum Information session in their child's classroom. Teachers are looking forward to providing you with an overview of the curriculum and the rich learning experiences that your child will participate in over the course of the year. An overview of classroom routines, homework and general expectations will also be provided. We look forward to this time together.

We also warmly invite you to attend the Leaders' Chapel, where we will acknowledge our Semester 1 Home Group Captains for Years 4 - 6 and our Prep - Year 6 Enviro Captains. This special service will take place at 1.30pm on Thursday 2 March at LMC.

Parent / Teacher Interviews will be held on Tuesday 7 and Thursday 9 March. These interviews help to strengthen our partnership with parents and allow for the sharing of information about your child. A letter has been sent home with instructions on how to book interviews online. Please call the office on 9727 9900 during office hours if you require assistance with this process.

Junior School Volunteer Briefing Session

If you would like to volunteer in your child's class this year, you must attend a Volunteer Briefing session. Due to changes in the guidelines for parent volunteers, both new and existing volunteers must attend a briefing session. The next Volunteer Briefing sessions will be

held on Monday 27 February at 2.45pm In the BPAC and Friday 3 March at 2.45pm in the Staff Room (please note change of venue). These sessions will focus on the responsibilities of volunteers as well as provide helpful tips for supporting students and their learning. All volunteers at Oxley must hold a current Working with Children Check. It is important to note, these expire after five years and must be renewed. Any parent who has renewed their card must provide the College with a copy of their new card so we can update our records. Please contact the school office to RSVP for either of the Volunteer Briefing sessions.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Sharee Gaiser
Head of Junior School

What Did You Do at School Today?

Prep

Prep classes have recently been introduced to the mathematical tool, Numicon. Numicon is a series of coloured shapes that are used in a variety of ways during mathematical lessons.



Micah and Koen exploring the Numicon shapes

This week, the Preps spent some time exploring the shapes and making their own discoveries. Next, the Preps were given the challenge to put the shapes in order.



Kobi, Stan and Micah putting their shapes in order

It is exciting to see Preps using their thinking skills to make discoveries and then describe these to a friend.

Year 1

We showed great restraint as we investigated changes in chocolate when it is heated and then cooled. We discovered that some foods, like chocolate, can be changed back to their original state and some foods cannot – like popcorn! As writers, we are creating our own stories that include a character, a setting and a plot. Our stories are highly imaginative and we are even turning them into cartoon strips! In Health we learned the difference between a small accident and a big emergency, and to call 000 for help. In IT we are experimenting with KidPix and feel very clever when we can change the text we type into a different font, size and colour. Year 1 is busy and fun! We continue to build deeper friendships as we get to know our classmates.

Year 2

So many exciting things have been happening in Year 2, so we will just tell you about a few of them. We enjoyed spending time with Mrs Gaschk at The Barn, where we cooked delicious corn on the cob! It is great fun to visit The Barn and harvest fresh fruit and vegetables. In English we have been learning about writing interesting recounts. We are using powerful verbs like *noticed* instead of saying *saw*, this is making our writing really interesting! Maths has been fantastic too, we are learning to not just say the answer but to explain how we know we are right. We truly are becoming outstanding mathematicians, who are willing to make mistakes on our quest for knowledge.

Year 3

We have settled in well and are enjoying the exciting challenges of being a year older. Our inquiry of *My Place, Your Place* has focussed on identifying what the word *place* means. We have looked at how places get their names and enjoyed trying to keep up with the town names in the song *I've Been Everywhere*. Maths has been all about place value and larger numbers, with some of us being able to say and identify numbers up to the millions! We LOVE reading and are enjoying choosing books that are at just the right level for us to learn. We are learning that reading isn't just saying the words on the page, but it is deeply understanding what we have read. We are also writing Narrative texts, making sure we use descriptive words so that whoever reads our work can't stop reading. I bet you can't wait to read some of our fabulous stories!

Year 4

We have been scientists, investigating the earth beneath our feet. We have examined soil samples to discover what it is made of and if there are different types. During our inquiries, we collected our own soil samples and made soil solutions to help answer the questions we have. We were amazed at how each sample looked different! We are in awe of God's creation! In English, we are becoming Superhero Writers as we follow the steps of The Writing Process. Do you want to know more? Come and visit our classrooms on Curriculum Information Night. We can't wait to show you!

Year 5

Once again, Year 5 students from Oxley Christian College embarked on an adventure of a lifetime as they headed off on camp last week. We are looking forward to many more discoveries about colonisation and the gold rush in the weeks to come as we continue our learning journey this term. See more information about the Camp on page 6.

Year 6

This week we have begun writing our very own biographies and have learnt many things about our fellow classmates. We've continued to investigate our Australian government and can tell you the three different levels of government, ask us! We also had the pleasure of hosting our Year 2 buddy class. We had so much fun getting to know them and even rolled out a homemade red carpet for them! We've also settled into all our various leadership roles well and are all enjoying leading our Junior School in all the various ways we can as Year 6 students.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Information for Parents

The Victorian Government has established the CSEF to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. These costs are included in the levies that are billed to your school account.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, (e.g. Centrelink Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card, or Pensioner Concession Card), or you are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

For more information about CSEF, and to download the CSEF application form, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. Note: Application forms are also available at the Reception Desk at the College's Administration Office. Application forms should be lodged as soon as possible, with payments expected from March 2017.

Please note that the College is required to sight and copy any relevant concession cards that you may hold to support eligibility for the CSEF. Please bring your concession card with you when you deliver your application to the College Administration Office.

Upon approval by the Victorian Government, the allowance will be paid to the College, which will then be applied to your school account.

Should you have any questions, please contact either Mrs Dawn Pryor, Accounts Receivable Officer, or Mr Andrew Holland, Business Manager, on 9727 9900.

Uniform

Boys Socks



Both Junior School boys and Senior School boys now have the option of wearing either knee-high or ankle socks (with the Oxley stripes) with shorts.

Andrew Holland
Business Manager

Administration



A reminder to parents that all types of information can be accessed from the Parent Portal via our website, including:

- Your child's timetable
- Account billing and payment details
- Canteen and Uniform Shop price lists
- School policies
- Information on school programs, such as the upcoming Senior School Athletics Carnival program

Please phone the College Office if you are unsure of your log-in details.

Mel Brydon
Office Manager



Year 5 Camp

On 15 February we headed off to Ballarat's Sovereign Hill for two nights, and were transformed into living exhibits within the museum that has been re-created into an 1850s mining town and goldfield. Students were provided with the amazing experience of dressing in period costumes and attending school the way it used to be more than 150 years ago. Writing with dip pens and ink, learning our 16 times table, panning for gold, exploring old mines and seeing spectacular night exhibitions were just some of the many unique activities students experienced on this interactive and engaging excursion.

We were in awe as we watched the spectacular \$100,000 gold pour, and were jumping out of our seats as our senses were set alight at *Blood on the Southern Cross* sound and light show on Wednesday night.



Students were entertained by costumed goldfields characters, including the famous Peter Lalor. We enjoyed chatting with candlemakers, confectioners, wheelwrights, seamstresses and blacksmiths as they were plying their trade, and loved indulging and spending our pocket money on their products. A stand out purchase favourite was, of course, the delicious hardboiled raspberry drops. Yum!

Our learning and curiosity of Australian history has been enriched, and students are revelling in opportunities to share, reflect and discuss their experience with one another in class.

Belinda Juchno







Year 11 Camp

Camp Reflection

On 6 February, Year 11 headed to Kinglake Wilderness Ranges Camp. Over the next three days, we were encouraged to step outside our comfort zones and undergo the task of growing as a year level. There were many different activities that we had the chance to participate in such as the leap of faith, climbing a rock wall or climbing rig, and also an artistic painting that the entire year level contributed to.

After a heartfelt message from ex-Chaplain Pastor Dave, we all learnt something new about the people who surround us and were able to identify our top five key values as a group which included respect, equality, teamwork, encouragement and communication. We had the chance to identify our strengths and ways we can contribute them to make the most of our last two years here at school.

My favourite moment was on the last day when we had a team challenge to create a group dance performance for the teachers. In order to pass the challenge each group had to get a score of twelve or more. Seeing the dances each group came up with and watching the teachers' reactions was great.

Overall, it was an excellent camp filled with many memorable moments and great experiences! What a fabulous way to begin the year ahead!

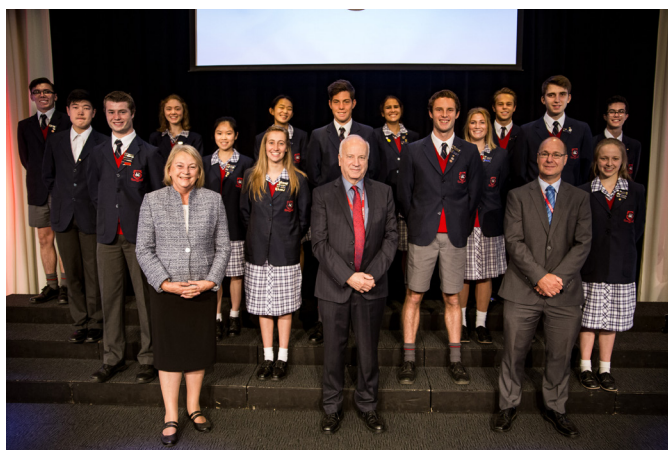
Sarah Jones (11.14)



Investiture

Student Leaders 2017

Senior School		
Captains	Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner	Brenton Ashley-Cooper
Vice Captains	Grace Spratt	Jacob Bell
International Captains	Juntong (Angel) Tan	Yun (Frank) Li
Chapel Captains	Olivia McDowell	Callum Heads
Music Captain	Joel Fung	
Senior Leaders	Jack Anderson	Olivia McDowell
	Simone Engele	Jessica Murphy
	Callum Heads	Ruth Ong
	Nathan McDonald	Nicholas Ots
House Captains		
Gibeon Warriors (Red)	Kaylah Cuthbert	Brenton Ashley-Cooper
Tabor Trojans (White)	Annie Walsh	Jordan Dyason
Zion Crusaders (Blue)	Caitlin Walker	Matthew Smith
House Vice Captains		
Gibeon Warriors (Red)	Abbey Ceh	Samuel Fung
Tabor Trojans (White)	Kate Stebbins	Bill Mason
Zion Crusaders (Blue)	Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner	Callum Heads
Middle Years Leaders	Ethan Anderson	Georgia Collins
	Jessica Dziadosz	Dylan Maxwell
	Campbell Mole	Benjamin Parker
	Zoe Sibley	Erin Weller
	Jack Williams	Liam Wilson-Gardner
Junior School		
Captains	Brooke Waldrom	Jack Driessen
Vice Captains	Ava Simpson	Thomas Steuart
Performing Arts Captain	Max Peacock	
House Captains		
Gibeon Warriors (Red)	Stacey Mubaira	Caleb Waite
Tabor Trojans (White)	Kayla Thorpe	Joshua Lyon
Zion Crusaders (Blue)	Jessica Nassar	Riley Haycraft



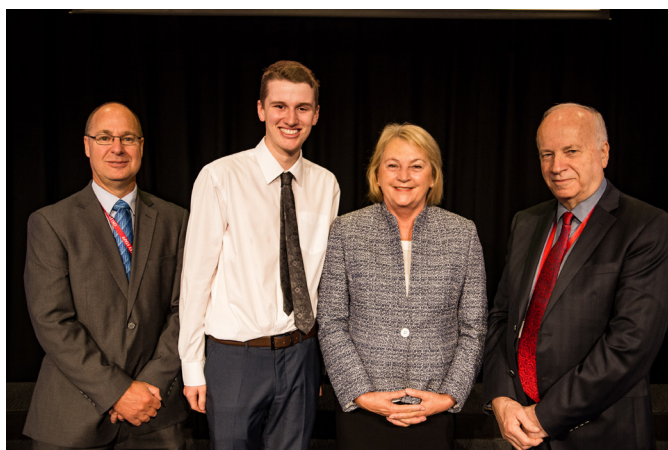
Senior School Leaders with Christine Fyffe MP, Douglas Peck and Greg Barker



House Captains with Douglas Peck and Greg Barker



Junior School Leaders with Sharee Gaiser and Douglas Peck



2016 Dux of the College Jakob Jones with Greg Barker, Christine Fyffe MP and Douglas Peck

Excerpts from Investiture Captains' Speeches: Vice Captains' Bible Readings

Jacob Bell:

Hebrews 11:1 and 3 NLT

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Romans 12:2 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Grace Spratt:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:1 and 7 NIV

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. For we live by faith, not by sight.

Captains' Speeches

Brenton Ashley-Cooper:

Good morning Dr Peck, Ms Christine Fyffe, teachers, parents, respected guests and fellow students. My name is Brenton Ashley-Cooper and this is Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner and we are your School Captains for 2017. It is an absolute privilege to represent not only the student leadership team but also the student community of Oxley Christian College, where we hope to work together with the teachers to bring out the very best in this wonderful school.

Firstly, we hope that every student has settled in to their new level or possibly new school, after a long summer break and like ourselves, are eager to see what 2017 has in store for us all. In preparing for this year as your Captains, we spent time thinking about what our goals are and what our vision is for this community. As leaders of this school, we came to the conclusion that this year God has called us to focus on what is unseen.

Often, when we think about who or what is unseen, we think about simply being unnoticed, or getting lost in the crowd. However, when we look at this concept from a biblical perspective (as we heard in the earlier readings) we learn that God consistently directs us to the unseen—to have faith in what is unseen, to love and help the unseen, but also to be unseen ourselves, working not for our own glory, but for the glory of God.

Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner:

The significance of what is unseen is also prominent in how Brenton and I view serving the school community. A core belief that we shall strive to make the foundation of our leadership this year is that God's love for us is unconditional, and not dependent upon impressive achievements or acts of service. As expressed in 1 Samuel 16:7, *The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.* Therefore, we recognise the importance of being honest with God and primarily seeking to serve Him, regardless of whether such obedience may go unnoticed or occur behind the scenes.

Furthermore, we believe that our theme for this year both reflects our year level, and defines what we aspire to focus on as the year unfolds. A great strength of our year level is our enthusiastic nature and willingness to serve others, often in ways that go unseen by many. This morning, Brenton and I want to encourage our fellow peers to maintain such passion and servanthood as the year continues.

As previously read out by Jacob, God challenges us in Romans 12 to *not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* Hence, we believe the theme also poses a challenge for everyone here to not submit to society's definitions of success, but instead choose to seek out God's specific calling and purpose on our lives, *His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Brenton Ashley-Cooper:

Our encouragement does not end at our year level or within the school community. It goes for every single person here, in all walks of life. Sometimes we're recognised for work we complete or sacrifices we make, which is fantastic and, as a school, we strive to honour one another where we can. However, as explained in Mark 6:3-4, *When you give to the poor, don't let anyone know about it. Then your gift will be given in secret. Your Father knows what is done in secret, and he will reward you.* In everything you do, do for the glory of God and He will use your obedience to pour out His blessings onto others. Show love, compassion and servanthood to every person you meet because blessed are those who silently serve others without a selfish thought. There will always be one who sees and He is the only One who truly matters.

Gabrielle Wilson-Gardner:

Brenton and I truly count it a blessing to be able to serve through these roles, and our prayer for this year is that we all may seek, both individually and as a broader school community, to not get caught up in the many distractions of the world, but instead switch focus to the unique and specific purpose placed upon us by our Heavenly Father.

We would appreciate it if you would now join with us in prayer as we dedicate this year and this school to God's calling.

Father, we thank you for your unending love and guidance, and we look forward to all that lies ahead. Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on you throughout this year regardless

of distractions or challenges. I pray a particular blessing over the Year 12s; that you provide us with wisdom and peace in the decisions we make and the examples we set. Thank you for blessing us with such a loving community and help us humble ourselves so that we can give back and serve for no glory other than in your name.

Brenton Ashley-Cooper:

Heavenly Father, I pray for all those who feel like they are unnoticed, that you will fill them with your eternal love and strength, to not desire praise from society but staying content with being obedient to you, as your glory is what really matters. Help us praise others and build each other up, without looking for our own interests. Please continue to work in the lives of the students, teachers and the leadership team so we can represent our school community and work in your glorious name. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to the College. New music teacher, **Mr Kyle Bienvenu**, will teach contemporary guitar to both Junior and Senior School students. We also welcome a new Learning Support Assistant, **Miss Rhiannon Lacy**, who will provide support to the Junior School students.



My name is **Kyle Bienvenu** and I am very excited and blessed to be joining the Oxley family as the new guitar teacher. I am currently finishing a Bachelor of Music Performance and I am looking in the future to enrol in a Masters of Music Therapy. Music has been a huge part of my life and I hope my love of music and of people of all ages will enable me to have a positive effect with my students. Outside of music I enjoy living an active life including squash and rock climbing and I'm currently enjoying 'building' my own acoustic guitar.



My name is **Rhiannon Lacy** and I am delighted to join Oxley Christian College as a Learning Support Assistant within the Junior School. For the past eight years I have taught Speech and Drama within various schools across Melbourne. I have a passion for theatre, especially being in the audience and watching the drama unfold on stage. I am extremely blessed to become a part of the Oxley community and am excited for the year ahead.

Congratulations

Wigs for Kids Program

Congratulations to **Samara Tonkin (2M)** who has chosen to donate her hair to kids who need wigs due to illness. Her hair will be donated to AAAF (Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation) to be used in their Wigs for Kids Program.



Samara's before and after shots!

Grandad's Legacy

When **Jake Hume's (11.13)** grandad passed away last year after battling cancer, he wanted to do something significant to honour his grandad and celebrate his life.

Jake, with his own hard earned money, decided to design a hoodie that he could give to his mates so that the memories of his grandad would never be far away.

The hoodies are emblazoned with his grandad's initials **TJK** and the slogan *Never Give Up*. Jake says, that throughout his grandad's battle with cancer he never gave up and kept fighting right to the end. Jake now wants to carry on his grandad's legacy and take that fighting spirit into his own life.



Jake (centre), with friends Andrew and Matt wearing the jumpers he designed to remember his late Granddad, Terry John King

As a school we would like to recognise Jake and his thoughtful initiative – well done Jake, your granddad would be proud!

Past Students Association

Congratulations to past student, **Ashley Jane Hopkins**, who has completed dual Bachelor degrees in Nursing and Psychology. She has graduated with distinction. Well done Ashley!



Ashley celebrating her Graduation with family and friends

Homework Club

Every Monday afternoon, Oxley offers a free Homework Club for all students in Years 7-12. The program has been running since 2011 and provides a quiet working environment for students to complete their school work. Computer facilities are provided as well as one-on-one assistance from teachers who volunteer their time to run the program.

Parents, if your child needs some extra help, is falling behind in homework or waiting around after school with nothing to do, why not encourage them to attend.

Homework Club can be used for:

- Completing homework
- Revising for tests and examinations
- Researching
- Completing other school work

Homework Club is a great opportunity for students to receive some extra help and tips on how to prepare, organise their time and revise effectively.

Date Every Monday
Time 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Location S4 (Senior Building)

For more information about Homework Club, please contact the College.

Andrew Piper
Head of Science and Digital Learning

Music

We have had a great start to the year in our Music Department. Private lessons and ensemble rehearsals are now well underway. Here is a reminder of our ensemble rehearsal times.

Allegro	Monday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Concert Band	Tuesday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Sinfonia	Tuesday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Vocal Ensemble	Wednesday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Senior Choir	Thursday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Training Strings	Friday	1.15pm – 1.55pm
Camerata	Friday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Vivace	Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Cherub Choir	Tuesday	8.15am – 8.45am
Seraphim Choir	Wednesday	8.15am – 8.55am
Allegretto	Wednesday	3.45pm – 4.30pm
Andante	Thursday	3.45pm – 4.30pm

Auditions for our Vocal Ensemble were held on Wednesday 15 February. There was a large number of students auditioning and they all did a terrific job. Miss Burt is now in the process of determining which voices will blend well together for our 2017 Vocal Ensemble.

Our Music Camp date and destination have changed this year. We had a great few years at Ferngully Lodge in Healesville but, with so many students now involved in our ensembles, we have outgrown their facilities. We will be holding our Music Camp on Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 July and it will be held at Oasis in Mount Evelyn.



2016 Music Camp

For private music students, please remember to advise Mrs Peacock directly if you are going to be absent from your music lesson for any reason. Lessons missed without any prior advice will be billed as a charged lesson. The phone number to call is 9727 9675.

Angela Peacock
Performing Arts & Events Administrator

History

Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize winners

Last year, students in Years 9 and 10 were encouraged to participate in the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC competition. Although only two students took up the offer, remarkably they were both selected in the top 50 entrants in Victoria, and subsequently won study tours to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. We congratulate **Sarah Jones (11.14)** and **Kimberley Sambrooks (10.3)** on their significant achievements. You can read their stories below.

If you would like to participate in this year's competition, please see Mr White for more details. It is a great way to learn more about the sacrifices of Australians during the Great War, to meet other enthusiastic students of History in Victoria, and to improve your historical skills. You never know where your passion can take you!

Stephen White
Head of Humanities

Kimberley Sambrooks

For my entry, I created three art pieces responding to the prompt of what it was like for the family members left at home when the men went to war, what they had to deal with and how they were affected by it. Another prompt was a quote from the book the ANZACs by Patsy Adam-Smith.

The way I went about making my entry was firstly reading the chapter in the ANZACs that the prompt was in then I found other information from a variety of websites, books and an interview. Then I looked at my ideas and drew and painted them.



Kimberley with Christine Couzens MP at the Park Hyatt, Melbourne

My favourite was my third picture. It was based on the interview that I had with my grandmother about what her father was like after the war, how he was so distant emotionally and physically and how the only time that he would even mention the war was through the war songs that he sung in the early morning.

For the interview, I went into the city to the Shrine of Remembrance with a group of 50 other students from across Victoria. We had a tour around the Shrine and

talked about our entries in groups. After the interview, it was a nerve-racking wait for the results. After I found out I had won, I attended an awards ceremony in the city.

Sarah Jones

In 2016, I applied for the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize. The competition provided two prompts, either of which you could answer, both based on the Home Front and the experience of troops during World War I. Your response could be presented in any way you liked.

For the competition, I wrote an essay on the topic of the Home Front, mainly addressing how women took on greater roles in society, the changes in children's ideology and childhood expectations, the change in the dynamic of families, the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the unwavering support for troops.

I had spoken to Mr White about entering the competition and he helped me to unpack the question and find useful resources. It took me a while after completing my research to actually write the essay. I had so many topics and points that I could have written about but had to narrow it down. I wrote and rewrote the essay four times. About two months later, an email came announcing that I had been selected for a group interview day which was held on Monday 11 December at the Shrine of Remembrance.

On the day, I had the opportunity to meet 51 other applicants and share my entry with them. The day consisted of ice-breakers, what-if scenarios, a short speech from each student, a tour of the Shrine and some delicious food.

Over the school holidays, I found out that I had been selected to attend a Canberra Study Tour in the July school holidays. On Monday 6 February, I attended an awards ceremony where each successful applicant received a certificate outlining their achievement which was held at the Park Hyatt, Melbourne. At the venue, each student was presented the award by MP Christine Couzens, the State Member for Geelong.



Sarah receiving her award from Christine Couzens MP at the Park Hyatt, Melbourne

I am really looking forward to the trip as it will be a great opportunity to further my understanding of World War I and share my passion for History with the other applicants.

Sport

Senior Sport Report

Years 7-12 Inter-House Swimming

It was a great overall result for Inter-House Swimming held at Croydon Memorial Outdoor Swimming Pool on Thursday 16 February. We were once again blessed with great weather and a close competition between the three Houses.



All Houses were well represented in the pool with some great performances in all age groups. Congratulations to **Zara Schulz (7.16)** who broke the U/14 Breaststroke record with a time of 45.06 and to **Callum Harley (12.7)** with an outstanding Open Boys Butterfly record of 30.32.



The day started off with a House chant demonstration by each House, with White House coming out on top. This created a great atmosphere that was maintained throughout the day.

The event finished in style with a novelty event by our Captains and Vice Captains who then finished off the day with another House chant demonstration. It was a very close competition throughout the day between the Crusaders (Blue House) and Gibeon Warriors (Red House), but it was the Crusaders who managed to pull ahead from Gibeon Warriors (Red) to win the competition. The points accumulated by each house are shown below.

	Points	Place
Zion Crusaders (Blue)	1174	1 st
Gibeon Warriors (Red)	1140	2 nd
Tabor Trojans (White)	988	3 rd

Congratulations to the Crusaders (Blue House), for winning the In-House Swimming for the second year in a row. All students who competed are to be congratulated for their contribution to their team's points.

Champion Swimmers

In particular, the following Group Champions are to be recognised for their outstanding efforts as they represented their respective Houses.

	Girl Swimming Champions	Boy Swimming Champions
Year 7	1 st – Zara Schulz 2 nd – Audrey Oastler 3 rd – Grace Sibley	1 st – Mattias Talpan 2 nd – Paul Stebbins 3 rd – Jack Cooper
Year 8	1 st – Milla Piccioli 2 nd – Ella Whiting-Le Cras 3 rd – Emma Dowling 3 rd – Indigo Lee	1 st – James Kim 2 nd – Thomas Kaehne 2 nd – Lachlan Witt 3 rd – Jayden O'Brien
Year 9	1 st – Zoe Sibley 2 nd – Erin Weller 3 rd – Natalie Biedrzycki	1 st – Jack Williams 2 nd – Charlie Oastler 3 rd – Lucas Ball
Year 10	1 st – Chanse Mathers 2 nd – Claudia Schulz 3 rd – Ashley Woodroffe	1 st – David Fullarton 2 nd – Hamish MacDonald 3 rd – Liam Jarrott
Open (Year 11/12)	1 st – Kate Stebbins 2 nd – Emma Townley 3 rd – Lara Sherar	1 st – Callum Harley 2 nd – Tudor Bugheanu 3 rd – Jack Dowling

Students selected to represent Oxley at the EISM Division 2 Swimming Competition, to be held on Tuesday 14 March at Aquanation in Ringwood, will be informed very shortly (if not already) regarding their place in the events. More information will be made available closer to the event.

Frederik Kotze
Head of Sport

Junior Sport Report

On 14 February, four Junior School students competed at the District Swimming trials. Despite having a smaller team than 2016, Oxley students competed hard to gain terrific results.

Daniel Balla (4KB) progressed in the 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke events. **Mikayla Scharp (4DK)** qualified for the 50m Backstroke. **Une Geisler (5J)** swam fastest in the 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly. **Alyssa Leaver (6S)** swam hard to progress in the 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke.

These students will now compete at the Yarra Division Carnival on Monday 6 March to see if they can advance to the Eastern Metropolitan Regional finals.

Congratulations on your wonderful achievements!

Joshua Gaschk
Junior Sport Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Programs



Year 7-9 Students

G.A.T.E.WAYS has been providing programs for gifted and talented students in Melbourne and interstate for over 21 years.

G.A.T.E.WAYS has now begun TEENS clubs in Alphington for Year 7-9 students 5.00pm to 6.30pm on Saturdays, usually once a fortnight during term time.

There are two groups available: Inklings (a books and writing club) and Tronics (a Science, Technology, Engineering club). These clubs aim to give gifted and talented students an opportunity to mix with like-minded peers, as well as to develop talents and specialised skills.

If you are interested, visit <http://www.gateways.edu.au/programs/brainwaves/club-philosophy-and-overview> for more information.

Sharon Sandison
Head of Inclusive Education

Junior Chapel

Sean W. Smith

Today at Junior Chapel we had the pleasure of listening to Sean W. Smith, an Australian singer / songwriter who writes and performs music especially for kids. His humour had us in stitches, his songs are catchy and his message gives encouragement to students to strive for their full potential and seek out their God given destiny.



Can I recommend his CDs to you? They are most suitable for Primary aged students, I have his CD playing regularly in our own car and the kids can't get enough! Sean has generously offered a discount and free delivery for Oxley families if you order via his website. Visit <http://seanwsmith.com/albums/> and enter the Promo Code: SAVENOW at the checkout - Which will give you any 2 of his CDs for \$30.00 with free shipping.

Pastor Matt
Chaplain



For enquiries about OSHC, Kindergarten and Long Day Care, please call us on 9727 9200 or drop in to see us (next to the Stadium). We're open 6.30am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Kim Sopar
Oxley Kids Director

Notice Board

2017 Calendar

UNIFORM SHOP

Gate 7, 15-49 Old Melbourne Rd
Ph: 9036 7359

Tuesdays & Thursdays (term time)
8.15 - 9.00am & 1.00 - 4.30pm

Uniform regulations and price list are
available at the Office or online at:
<http://www.bobstewart.com.au>

CLASSIFIEDS

The Oxley Classifieds are a
convenient way to buy and sell items
(directly related to the education
of your child) such as textbooks,
uniform and musical instruments.

To advertise or purchase second-
hand items:
[http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/index.
php](http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/index.php)

username: parent
password: oxley

OXLEY KIDS

Early Learning Centre
Open 6.30am - 6.30pm
9727 9200

OXLEY ONLINE

The Vine is also available online via
our website:
www.oxley.vic.edu.au

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

To see the latest in tertiary
information including Open Days,
visit:
[http://www.oxley.vic.edu.au/
category/careers](http://www.oxley.vic.edu.au/category/careers)

Feb	Thursday	23	Junior School New Parents Coffee Evening (7.00pm Staffroom)
Mar	Thursday	2	Junior School Curriculum Evening (8.00pm Classrooms)
	Friday	3	Junior School Leaders Chapel (1.30pm LMC)
			Year 7 Parent BBQ (5.30pm The Barn)
	Tuesday	7	Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00-8.30pm Senior School)
	Thursday	9	Years 7-12 InHouse Athletics
			Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00-6.00pm Senior School)
	Monday	13	Labour Day Holiday
	Tuesday	14	EISM Years 7-12 Division 2 Swimming (Aquamation)
	Tue-Fri	14-31	City Cite
	Wednesday	15	Year 7-9 Parent Seminar (7.30pm BPAC)
	Thursday	16	School at Work (9.30am BPAC)
	Mon-Thu	20-23	Year 6 Camp
	Tue-Fri	21-24	Year 8 Camp
	Wed-Fri	22-24	Year 7 Camp
	Monday	27	EISM Years 7-12 Championship Swimming (MSAC Albert Park)
	Thursday	30	City Cite Presentation Evening (6.30pm City Cite campus)
	Friday	31	Last Day Term 1
Apr	Fri-Mon	14-17	Easter
	Tuesday	18	First Day Term 2 (Winter uniform)
	Thursday	20	Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00-8.30pm Senior School)
	Friday	21	Year 7 immunisation
	Monday	24	ANZAC Dawn Service (6.30am Teardrop Carpark)
	Tuesday	25	ANZAC Day
	Wednesday	26	Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00-8.30pm Senior School)
May	Wednesday	3	School Photos
	Thursday	4	EISM Years 7-12 Division 2 Athletics
	Friday	5	Open Day Preparation (1.00pm dismissal)
	Saturday	6	Open Day (11.00am to 3.30pm)
	Tuesday	9	Junior School Mother's Day Stall
	Tuesday	9	NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 Writing & Language Conventions
	Wednesday	10	NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 Reading
	Thursday	11	NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 Numeracy
	Wed-Fri	10-12	Year 4 Camp
	Sunday	14	Mother's Day
	Monday	15	EISM Years 7-12 Athletics Championships
	Tuesday	16	Junior School Cross Country
	Wednesday	17	School at Work (9.30am BPAC)
	Mon-Fri	22-26	Library & Information Week
	Wednesday	24	National Reading Day



OXLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A Coeducational School | Pre-School to Year 12

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