



The Newsletter of
Oxley Christian College

Issue No 3
8 March 2018

From the Principal

Dear Friends,

I used to think it was difficult for a child growing up in the last century. However, the struggles for young people in this century have evolved in complexity. The constant pressure to 'be yourself' without really knowing who one is, speaks directly into individual identity.

There are many generational, cultural and gender-group influences on children that have led to a confusion of identity, but the socialising and marketing influences of large corporations and social media have also contributed. For example, the 'I as centre' influence of being an individual with iPhones and other iDevices being used to market a specific form of 'self-as-centre' materialism to this generation.

Another example of identity formation is the one conducted through the cultural wars of human sexuality, where it is implicit that human rights and everything else in society are subject to one's sexual identity. The ubiquity of sexual identity embedded in political correctness is well demonstrated in our nation's new laws and 'the pride' events of Mardi Gras and similar festivals around the world. Although the examples may change, the deep-seated complexity of identity is the same.

Regardless of denominational diversity, a Christian perspective would hold a number of common understandings about our identity. These include that

while we have a physical human form we also have a spiritual nature, that we are made in the image of God and that we are loved by God. Among other things, these are core beliefs about our identity that have their foundation in Scripture and Christian theology. The implications of such a view are profound and would seem to place other perspectives in their shadow.

We are created in love; therefore, nothing can console or liberate us other than love. The soul was created from the necessity for love. Our identity and life struggles are embedded in love, and God's love is embedded in our unique self. It is while we hold the door open for others to come into knowing the love of God, that the Christ slips in among us.

In his book, *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis says that the problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love', and look on things as if we were the centre of them. We are not the centre. God does not exist for our sake. We do not even exist for our own sake. Neither were we made primarily to love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the divine love may rest 'well pleased'.

Douglas Peck



Year 10 Aqua Camp

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

Devotion

Cambodia Trip Reflections

At Chapel last week, the Senior School students were privileged to hear from our Year 12 students who visited Cambodia in January with Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child. I, along with Miss Haley, Ms de Haan and Mr Cook, were blessed to lead this incredible team. Today I have given over my devotion space to hear from one of those students, Katherine Watt, as she shares her experiences. – Pastor Matt

On 3 January, 25 students, including myself and 4 teachers, embarked on a trip to Cambodia, which could only be described as a trip of a lifetime. Our itinerary was packed full of uncharted activities, insightful lessons and highly rewarding voluntary work which included teaching English lessons at a church, two shoe box distributions, a boat ride, a trip to the Genocide Memorial and Killing Fields, the Royal Palace, various Samaritan's Purse projects, the markets, the Silk Farm, and Angkor Wat.



One of my favourite experiences from the trip was at the church we visited for the first shoebox distribution. Before we gave out the shoeboxes to the children, we coordinated a series of games. This included *Heads*,

Shoulders, Knees, and Toes in both English and Khmer. It was quite hilariously entertaining because we were horrible at speaking Khmer and mumbled most of the song. We also did *under and over* relays and sung the song *Oceans*, accompanied by Mr Cook on guitar. Singing the song was personally a beautiful and overwhelming moment. It was not only about connecting with God but I realised that even though we are in a country with all these people that we cannot understand, we can communicate through God.

It was activities like this, and so many more that I had never dreamed of having the opportunity to encounter. However, I believe that it was the individuals who enhanced the trip. The amazing Samaritan's Purse workers, including Wayne, Sophoin and Francois, demonstrated god-like values and virtues and the Cambodia children and families, who we had the pleasure of meeting, touched our hearts and inspired us. It was this that made us realise just how lucky we all are to live in such a great country like Australia and that we should appreciate the people in our lives, the resources and belongings that we have because, unlike us, others do not have these privileges.

Even though this trip was only 11 days, we were able to change the lives of so many people. Hebrews 13:16 says *"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need"*. We learnt that we should use our power to share with others who are not as fortunate as us, and that you can always make a difference.

Not only were we impacted by the experiences we were receiving and the knowledge we were learning, but we were all able to create a strong bond in our little cohort by getting to know each other, as well as the teachers, through different games and conversations on the long bus trips and by sharing the experience and maturing together.

I am so incredibly thankful and blessed to have had the opportunity to participate in such an amazing trip that has had such a positive impact on the perspective of my life.

Katherine Watt 12.8

Giant Easter Egg Hunt

www.gianteggghunt.com.au

SOLD OUT!

Senior School

Friday night was a magnificent evening. God provided great weather while Mrs Kristi Reeves and a team of Year 8 parents put on a sensational barbecue for our newest arrivals to Senior School. Year 7 parents mingled and chatted with other parents about their start of year experience while their children were entertained by some of our more senior students. Conversations were plentiful and upbeat and we hope that these relationships can become long term friendships as your children travel together through Years 7-12 and sometimes well beyond. Thanks to our chefs and student volunteers, and all who attended to make this night such a success!

As the Year 7s lined up for food our School Captains and Vice Captains were settling in to the Compass Leadership Conference in Canberra. This annual event affords our preeminent leaders an opportunity to meet like-minded leaders from other schools and discuss goals and challenges. Our VCE Coordinator, Ms Adeline Lim, accompanied the students who participate in a range of activities and attend lectures and workshops designed to assist them as they continue to grow in their roles.

During the week Mr Harry Leather from City Cite attended Oxley to address parents of Year 9s on this long-running and greatly treasured program. The gathering was advised of some of the incredible changes in maturity and independence that are often observed as students travel to the city daily. In small groups they will explore some of the places and programs which make Melbourne the capital that it is, such as Parliament House, Magistrates Court, Eureka Building, Urban Seed and Fare Share Food Charity Kitchen.

The Year 10 Camp returned safely, having enjoyed the range of aquatic activities undertaken on the Mornington Peninsula, that treasure in our backyard. Boating, surfing, snorkelling, SCUBA, amongst other things, all provide a familiarity with the seas that help to sustain our planet and some ways that we as humans have uncovered to enjoy them.

It has been a safe, busy and highly enjoyable few weeks, and it is a joy and delight to be able to praise God for the life that He has given us and the freedom to enjoy it in so many ways. We can echo the words of the author of 1 Chronicles 16:34 from more than 2000 years ago, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."*

Greg Barker
Deputy Principal - Head of Senior School

Junior School

With the end of term quickly approaching, we have certainly settled into a positive and focused time of learning. Prep students have enjoyed being at school for full days and are now established in the routines for their classroom and specialist classes. We thank the Prep teachers and learning support staff for helping students and parents navigate the students' transition to school so positively. Well done parents for managing earlier pick up times and the myriad of things you have also had to learn!

The Junior School Student Forum provides an opportunity for students to actively participate in decision-making processes and build their leadership capacity. Newly elected Home Group Captains in Years 4 - 6 will serve on the Student Forum, chaired by Mrs Sutton. In addition, elected Enviro Captains from Prep - Year 6, will serve on the Enviro Team, ably assisted by Mrs Gaschk. We congratulate the following students, who were presented with a badge and certificate at the recent Leadership Chapel. We look forward to seeing how these young leaders dutifully influence our school community as part of their Christian service.

Junior School Leadership 2018 - Semester 1

Home Group Captains

	Female Captain	Male Captain
4K	Paige Gillam	Levi Barlow
4P	Hayley Graham	Matthew Brydon
5A	Radha Robertson	Finlay Serra
5R	Caitlyn Fong	Danny Gong
6K	Imagen Howarth	William Bennett
6W	Atlanta Schaeche	Hovan Truong

Enviro Captain

Prep M	William Billson
Prep W	Izzy Krause
1J	Alyssa Simari
1P	Jacob De Silva Thanapathy
2M	Rachel Jansen
2W	Toby Steer
3AB	Elijah Daly
3CB	Jasmine Liu
4K	An An Li
4P	Charlotte Geoghegan-Biggar
5A	Ava Van Haaster
5R	Stella Lantry
6K	Spike Sutton
6W	Angelica De Silva Thanapathy



Enviro Captains receiving their certificates at Chapel

Staff valued the opportunity to meet with families at our Semester 1 Parent Teacher interviews. Parent insight and information on student strengths and needs can help teachers to shape and individualise teaching and learning to achieve the best possible outcomes. In Term 3, we will again invite parents to attend Parent Teacher Interviews to reflect on student progress in the latter half of the year.

As part of our ongoing commitment to staff professional development, Junior School teachers are learning about the effective teaching of writing throughout 2018. With a focus on the purpose and structure of the Writing Workshop, we are participating in professional reading, team planning and lesson observation. Our students have been introduced to the *Writer's Notebook*, a place where they record the things they notice, observe and think about. We believe children write best about the things that are important to them and this notebook houses ideas that writers can use when creating texts for an audience. Why not ask your child about the ideas they are recording in their *Writer's Notebook*?

Junior School Volunteer Briefing Sessions

Thank you to the parents who attended the scheduled Volunteer Briefing Sessions last week. Over 80 parents were in attendance, highlighting the wonderful support we enjoy and value from parents in the Junior School. With regulations to follow and Child Safe Standards to uphold, it is imperative that our volunteers are fully aware of their role and responsibilities when supporting teaching and learning at Oxley. We look forward to witnessing the two-fold benefits of parent support in the classroom. Please contact the office if you were unable to attend either of the Volunteer Briefing sessions. Further sessions will be scheduled in Term 2.

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."
Psalm 103:2-5

Sharee Gaiser
Head of Junior School

What Did You Do at School Today?

Prep

Autumn came a few days early to the Prep playground. We had so much fun piling up the leaves and throwing them around. We jumped in them and even hid under them. We could not believe how many leaves fell off the trees. We have been discovering what could be in the big tin. We can sound out tin and learnt to build on this to spell fin, win and bin. We enjoyed trying Milo from the big tin. It was yummy! We are now at school for full days and have been to Chapel, where we met Monty and Junior. We can't wait until they visit us in Prep.



Prep playing with the Autumn leaves!

Year 1

We have begun our new ICU topic, *Look! Listen!* We are learning how we see and hear through experiments and observations. In Maths, we are having a wonderful time using hefting and balance scales to measure and compare the mass of everyday objects. When writing, we have included describing words in our personal memoirs to add interest and emotion. During reading, we are learning to retell a story using the four W's: *Who, Where, When, What*. In Bible we discovered how Joseph kept trusting in God despite his difficult circumstances. God turned a bad situation into something wonderful! It has been another busy and fun fortnight!

Year 2

We have had a fantastic time of learning in Year 2. In Mathematics, we have been learning to rise to the challenge, to keep trying and never give up! We have certainly been rising to the challenge as we gain confidence to share our understanding of key concepts. In Writing, we are learning to zoom in on a moment in time in our personal memoirs. This is helping us to captivate our audience's attention. Our excursion to Chirnside Park was a highlight. It was interesting to locate shops on a blank map. We had to use features, like the entrances, to correctly mark the shops on our map!

Year 3

In Writing, we have focused on the introduction of a narrative by experimenting with *Sizzling Starts*. We want to make sure our audience is engaged and keen to keep reading. Some of the strategies we trialed were using sound effects, posing a question or starting with an action scene. No more boring, "One day I woke up" stories for us! In Reading, we have developed the

strategy of visualising. Did you know that making a movie in our mind while we read, helps us to understand the text? During Maths we have used different strategies to add numbers together, using our knowledge of place value to make accurate calculations. Having a range of strategies to use when adding is helpful. We are also really excited to meet our Pre-School Buddies at Oxley Kids for the very first time.

Year 4

It's been a rock and rolling type of week in Year 4 as we explored the three different types of rocks. Students enjoyed examining a variety of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock samples and identifying their attributes and features. We have excitedly published our *Personal Memoirs* and are looking forward to sharing them with others. We used post-it notes to identify non-fiction text features such as maps, labels and fascinating facts in the texts we are reading. The teachers are looking forward to interviews with the Year 4 parents and learning more about every student in their care.

Year 5

What a busy time it is in Year 5. We have enjoyed learning how to write narratives and letters to Sir / Ma'am in preparation for our upcoming camp to Sovereign Hill. Our understanding of Australian history is growing, with our focus being the events that surrounded the Eureka Stockade. Was it a riot or a revolution? What do you think? We have learnt so many interesting and insightful facts, and our curiosity has been taken to new heights in hands-on shared, independent and group experiences.

Year 6

Last week, we spent four days in Canberra. With Monty and Junior in tow, we learnt first hand the structure of the Australian Parliament and what is required for a bill or amendment to be passed. We visited the Electoral Commission and learnt how to cast a formal vote for our favourite fruit. It was very interesting to learn how the way we cast our preferences influenced the vote. We thoroughly enjoyed building stronger friendships with each other as we participated in small group challenges during the camp. We are excited to be back at school and to share our experiences with our friends and family.



Year 6 at Parliament House in Canberra

Congratulations

State Championships Show Jumping

Audrey Lyons (8.33) qualified for the Victorian Interschool Equestrian State Championships after a great performance at the Interschool Show Jumping Series.



Audrey qualifies for the Victorian State Championship

Audrey and her horse Wyuna Flirt now qualify to ride in the 2018 Horsecare Australia State Championships to be held at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre in April where they will compete against 60 competitors. *"I'm extremely excited to represent Oxley Christian College at State Championship level,"* Audrey said.

We want to congratulate Audrey and her horse Wyuna Flirt on this great achievement and wish them all the best for State Championships.

Frederik Kotze
Head of Sport

ANZAC 2018



THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018

Coming Soon

- 6.30am on Tuesday 24 April in the Teardrop carpark
- Pancake Breakfast (gold coin donation)
- All students, teachers, families and friends welcome
- Stay tuned for more information or see Mr White



2017 ANZAC Dawn Service



Year 10 Aqua Camp

Year 10 students spent four days enjoying the wonderful water environment of the Mornington Peninsula for the ever-popular Year 10 camp. Depending on their chosen stream, students participated in activities such as SCUBA diving, surfing, sailing, kayaking, power boating, snorkelling, beach games, rock pooling, a boat tour and water safety / boogie boarding. Students were blessed with beautiful weather to explore the aquatic environment in the company of their friends. They were a pleasure to look after and we trust that their experiences will be remembered fondly for many years.

Nicole Latham
Year 10 Coordinator

Comments from Students

'SCUBA diving was amazing; especially getting to see the stingray.'

'This camp is a camp I will never forget and I miss it so much!'

'Camp was amazing! The people, including the leaders, were so friendly.'

'The Year 10 SCUBA camp was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I look forward to perhaps continuing SCUBA diving in the future.'

'Sailing on camp was great fun, even though I'd never sailed before. The instructors made sure that I knew what I was doing.'

'Camp was a great experience. It was so good to see people stand up on surfboards and fun to snorkel with the seals.'

'The best thing about camp was the boat tour.'

'The best thing about camp was interacting with different people and making new friends.'

'We're terrible at sailing but pros at fixing a capsized boat (we capsized 4 times in one hour)!'

'5 stingrays, 1000 fish, 2 seahorses, 5 starfish and a mini squid. I have so many friends now.'

'It was incredible to be able to breathe under the sea and discover a whole new world.'







Cambodia Samaritan's Purse Trip



Careers

Year 10-12

In response to the requests of both students and parents, we would like to offer your child another opportunity to take advantage of the Morrisby Online Careers Guidance Service.

Morrisby Online is a career guidance tool that helps students to identify potential career paths and make informed decisions about their study options. Participating students will take a 105 minute online assessment and questionnaire which measure a variety of elements including aptitudes, career interests, work attitudes, talents and motivations. Once the assessment is complete, students will have access to personally tailored career and education suggestions, plus a wealth of careers-related resources, all presented on a dynamic and interactive website.

We believe this will be an invaluable tool in your child's future decision-making about VCE subject selection for Year 10 students, as well as future research into careers and higher education for Year 10-12 students.

We are planning to run this session for students on Wednesday afternoon 28 March. This is the week of EISM finals. If the student would like to take part in Morrisby Online, but is involved in finals or unable to do the test at this time, they should still register and we can organise an alternative time slot.

Subscription to the service costs \$50.00 per student, which we are asking parents to fund. If you would like your child to take part, please pay by either:

1. Visiting the website:
<https://app.morrisby.com/p8CKC8>
2. Entering the code p8CKC8 on the following page:
<https://app.morrisby.com/MorrisbyPay/>

The system is fully secure and all major debit and credit cards are accepted.

All payments must be received by 27 March, 2018.

Please note, if you are registering for more than one child you will need to make individual payments.

Further information about Morrisby Online can be found on their website: www.morrisby.com/parents
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Oswald on 9727 9948.

Carol Oswald
Careers Coordinator

Music

The Oxley Music Department is pleased to announce that Mrs Cora van Pinxteren has joined our team and will teach strings. Mrs van Pinxteren comes to Oxley with a vast range of experience in teaching private string students, in working with ensembles, assisting in workshops and playing in orchestras. She is currently involved in, and is passionate about, playing the viola in Orchestra Victoria which plays for the Australian Ballet and Australian Opera. We are thankful to Mr David Lau for his time with us over the last two years and we wish him all the best in his future career.

We would like to congratulate our Music Captain, **Hina Sasuga (11.14)**, on receiving a Recognition Certificate from Trinity College London for receiving one of the highest Distinction marks in the country for her Grade 7 Violin examination in 2016. This is a special award issued by Trinity College London to just a select few around the country. Well done, Hina!

Applications to start lessons in Term 2 should be received by the Music Department by Friday 16 March. This allows time for timetables to be prepared and distributed before the end of Term 1. If you have any queries about private instrumental lessons, please call the Music Department on 9727 9675.

Angela Peacock
Performing Arts & Events Administrator

Resource Centre

Congratulations to **Tirion Roberts (4K)** and **Vivaan Iyer (4P)**. These two outstanding avid readers have been nominated to be part of the Top Reads Team on the Alphabet Soup website for 2018 and beyond. Their profiles can be seen at <https://alphabetsoup.net.au/2018/02/23/introducing-the-2018-top-reads-team/> and the first of their monthly nominations at <https://alphabetsoup.net.au/2018/02/28/top-reads-for-february-2018/>



This is a great way for our young students to celebrate and share their love of reading with other children. If you are looking for these two very keen students ... they may well be hidden in a book somewhere!

Leanne Saward
Junior School Library Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's leading youth achievement award, helping to equip young people for life. Over the last 50 years, nearly 150,000 young Victorians have gained life and leadership skills to become empowered young leaders, involved community members and have tapped into their God-given potential. They achieve goals in the areas of physical recreation, skills, and volunteering service to others, and also undertake an adventurous journey as part of the Award. As well as these benefits, the Duke of Ed Award has a relationship with several universities, training centres and work places which can assist in employment and pathway applications. Oxley Christian College is proud to offer the Bronze level of the Award as a Year 9 elective.



2017 Duke of Ed students

Students who completed the award in 2017 who were presented at the assembly on 5 March were:

Bronze Award Recipients	Silver Award Recipients
Nathan Arena	Bianca Cuthbert
David Fullarton	Rachael Hallang
Dylan Maxwell	Katherine Higgs
Joshua McDowell	Janaye Muller
Campbell Mole	Adam Renkema
William Spratt	Liam Ting
Zachary Steer	
Liam Wilson-Gardner	
Joshua Winter	
Daniel Woodcock	

We congratulate all of our Duke of Edinburgh Award recipients on this significant achievement.

Gavin Fox
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Canteen

Junior School Lunch Orders

Please write name, year level and the order clearly on the outside of a paper bag and put the money inside. Each classroom has an allocated class lunch order tub for your child to place their lunch order in first thing in the morning

Senior School Lunch Orders

Must be handed in to Canteen staff before school. We have available for student use - paper bags, pens and a price list with available products. The canteen is open from 8.10am each morning.

Sue Dickson
Canteen Manager



Oxley Kids welcomes all our families for another great year. We have limited spaces in our 4 year old kindergarten for this year. If you would like your child to attend for day-care or kindergarten, please contact us as soon as possible.

Kim Sopar
Oxley Kids Director



Choose a sport they can play for life ... Tennis!

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FREE Racquet upon Enrolment

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Notice Board

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/
classifieds.php](http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/classifieds.php)

username: parent
password: oxley

OXLEY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The College may, from time-to-
time, review and update various
policies and procedures. Online /
digital copies of College policies
and procedures can be found on the
Oxley website (under 'Publications'),
or on the Parent Portal (under the
'Docs' tab) which is accessible from
the College website

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

2018 Calendar

Feb	Mon - Thurs	26-1	Year 6 Camp
	Friday	26	Junior School Volunteer Briefing (2.45pm BPAC)
Mar	Thursday	1	Year 7 and Year 10 Immunisation
	Friday	2	Year 12 Leaders Compass Conference Junior School Volunteer Briefing (2.45pm BPAC) Year 7 Parent BBQ (5.30pm Enviro Barn)
	Monday	5	Year 3 - 6 Division Swimming
	Tuesday	6	Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 - 8.30pm Senior School Building)
	Thursday	8	Senior School House Athletics Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 - 6.00pm Senior School Building)
	Monday	12	Labour Day Public Holiday
	Tues 13 - Thurs 29		Year 9 City Cite
	Thursday	15	Year 3 - 6 Athletics School at Work (9.30am BPAC)
	Mon - Wed	19-21	Year 5 Camp
	Tues - Fri	20-23	Year 8 Camp
	Wed - Fri	21-23	Year 7 Camp
	Monday	26	Junior School Leaders Event EISM Swimming Championships
	Wed 28 March - Mon 9 April		Year 9 / 10 China Tour
	Wednesday	28	Year 9 City Cite Presentation Evening (6.30pm City Cite Campus)
	Thursday	29	Last Day Term 1
Apr	Tuesday	17	Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 - 9.00pm Senior School Building)
	Tuesday	24	ANZAC Dawn Service (6.30am Tear Drop Carpark)
	Thursday	26	Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 - 9.00pm Senior School Building)
	Fri 27 - Sat 28 March		Music Camp
May	Tuesday	1	School Photos
	Thursday	3	Year 7 Immunisation
	Wed 9 - Fri 11		Year 4 Camp



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