



The Newsletter of
Oxley Christian College

Issue No 9
13 June 2019

From the Principal

Dear Friends,

I was honoured to attend the VCE Premier's Awards ceremony last week, at which two of our students were recognised for their exceptional outcomes for last year. I congratulate **Mark Lian (12.10)** for excellence in Chin Hakha 2018 examinations and **Will Spratt (12.7)** for excellence in the Texts and Traditions 2018 examinations. They joined some 300 other students at the Melbourne Convention Centre to receive their awards from the Minister for Education for being in the top 0.5 per cent of the VCE cohort for these studies.

Students in Senior School have been sitting examinations and the General Achievement Test (GAT) in the last two weeks. We trust their results will be a true indication of their efforts in mastering the learning disciplines. Congratulations to all students who have put their best work into these assessments. Tonight we will be delighted to experience the musical talents of Junior and Senior School students in an evening soiree. Thank you to everyone involved.

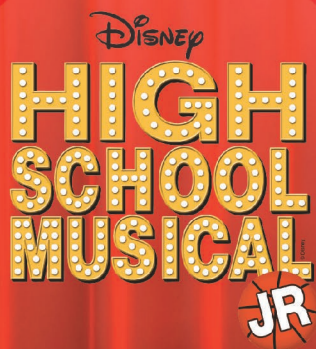
Our 40th year whole school anniversary photo has been distributed and we trust our community is pleased with this memento. Certainly it is a wonderful inclusion to have Ps Hal Oxley in the front row of staff. He may not have expected to be around for this celebratory picture, but God's grace remains evident in his 103rd year. As we know, in the modern period, there is often a negative reaction to our public display of Christian

presence. Perhaps we can too easily feel under threat from the negative press about religion. Far more difficult is to maintain an outlook of gratitude for all the positive contributions of authentic faith in the public square as Ps Hal's life represents. Faith is the heart and soul of personal identity and the means of living with integrity.

Last Sunday the global church celebrated Pentecost Sunday, the event that was anticipated following the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The significance of this event as the beginnings of the church lie alongside the unity we experience as Christians in having God's Spirit live in us and among us. It is an event in which we see the barriers of our humanity being dissolved, and the abandonment of the person, to being filled with the Spirit's presence, in order that the wonders and marvels of God are known to us and lead us into worship. Pentecost is the Greek word for the Jewish celebration of the festival of Shavuot, a spring harvest festival. It is not difficult to make the connection of meaning between these events in a life of faith.

Traditionally, the last few weeks of Term 2 is a very hectic time in the school year and this year will be no exception. With considerable humility, I thank our dedicated staff and our patient families for all that will be achieved before the end of semester.

Douglas Peck



Save the Date

2019 Middle Years Production

Two shows only

Thursday 8 and Friday 9 August

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

Chaplain's Corner

"PUT ON THE
**FULL
ARMOR
OF GOD...**"
- EPHESIANS 6:11

THE ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

The apostle Paul admits that living a life committed to the ways of Christ is rarely going to be easy. There are times when Paul would have been forgiven for giving up. He urges his readers not to look at this cause for discomfort and trial as coming from man, but rather a spiritual enemy. **Ephesians 6:12** says, *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* Against Satan, Paul encourages us to resist his temptations and refuse to yield to him, and in doing so we will see him flee!

But when trials come, when all is not roses and lollipops, how do we stand as he exhorts us to do? Paul suggests that no one should go into a battle for the mind or the spirit or indeed the faith without first adorning the appropriate protective garments. In this case, Spiritual Armour.

Recently, I heard from a new acquaintance, who told me how, every day, he chooses to put on the armour of God. He has committed to memory **Ephesians 6:14-18**, so that as he puts on his physical clothes, to go about his day, he prays also that God would equip him with the spiritual equivalent.

I wonder how choosing to ask God for each element of spiritual armour, regularly, might see both a physical and spiritual outworking, strengthening your disposition?

Ephesians 6:13-18 *Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

There are six items of spiritual armour that we can choose to wear.

1. **The Belt of Truth.** A choice to listen to truth, speak the truth and live for the truth. The belt holds our trousers up and prevents us from being tripped up. *God give me the strength to be honest in my dealings and bold enough to stand up and fight for what is right and true. Protect me from lies and deception.*
2. **Breastplate of Righteousness.** The breastplate secures the vitals, it protects our heart. *Lord, help my heart not be hardened. Keep it soft towards You, yet strong enough to withstand the temptation to entertain evil thoughts.*
3. **Feet fitted with the readiness** that comes from the Gospel of peace. *God, enable me this day to be at peace with You, with myself and with others. Help me not to be easily provoked or prone to quarrel, but rather allow me to always show gentleness of spirit.*
4. **Shield of Faith.** *Thank You Jesus for the victory I have already in You because of Your goodness and faithfulness to me. With this shield, thank You that the fiery darts of the enemy are rendered ineffectual.*
5. **Helmet of Salvation.** *Lord do not allow me to be tempted into despair, renew my hope and permit me to keep my chin up and my eyes fixed on You.*
6. **Sword of the spirit.** *Thank you Father for Your Word, the Holy Scriptures, inspired by the Holy Spirit, available daily for me to read and to nourish my soul. Thank You that Your Word is a weapon, one that I can use in spiritual warfare to walk in victory every day.*

Matt Daly
Chaplain

Senior School

The weather forecast for the day of the Senior School Cross Country was not pleasant. It was predicted to be cold and wet. Some traditionalists thought this was the perfect backdrop to such a test of stamina and perseverance, while others could sense that even the sausage sizzle would not lighten the mood. As is becoming habitual, we studied the radar in order to ascertain whether we should proceed or not, eventually deciding there was a good chance of little precipitation in the afternoon.

There was more enthusiasm in the air than moisture and the event ran without a hitch. Students ran the course at a good pace, eager to outdo their friends in other team colours. Most people navigated the course successfully, although Heartbreak Hill again took a toll on the speed of competitors, bringing some nearly to a standstill.

Thank you to all students who took part in this healthy and invigorating lead up to Assessment Week. We trust that you enjoyed the friendly but competitive nature of the day as much as we did.

Examinations took place last week. As with the Cross Country, there will be people who finish first, people who achieve their best, people who have to overcome personal obstacles or hurdles which they will have to navigate, some for the entirety of their life.

We trust that you have worked hard to achieve results you can be proud of, and that you can take this success into the next semester, as well as other aspects of your life. These results provide one indication of how you are progressing academically and provide teachers with useful data, not only about you, but also about their own teaching. We are all in this together and staff will review results with a keen eye as they learn how to further refine their teaching expertise, just as students should analyse performance to determine how to perform even better.

We ask students at this time to learn from their results, but also to be kind to themselves and respect the privacy of others who may not be prepared to share how they have done.

Many students in Years 7-9 will be well aware that this year we are trialling a Middle Years Production, and many students have been rehearsing evenings and weekends to perform at their best in *High School Musical Junior*. It promises to be a sensational musical and we can hardly wait to see the hard work when it is converted to entertainment in front of an expectant crowd.

Mark Twain concludes through Tom Sawyer that, *Work consists of whatever a body is OBLIGED to do, and that Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do*. The time and the commitment of the young performers, as well as of their leaders, seems to echo this as they work hard and enjoy it. A big thank you to Mrs Theunissen, Miss Hogan, Mr Chan and Mrs Barnden, and of course those senior students who are mentoring their young protégés.

The Bible also talks quite a lot about work. We read in Genesis 2:15, before the Fall, that *man was put in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*. We read in Proverbs 13:4, *A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied*. We are created to worship and built for a purpose. I trust that you are able to find as much fulfilment and enjoyment in your work each day as I can in working with amazing staff and students.

Greg Barker
Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

Junior School

We trust that you enjoyed the Queen's Birthday long weekend and cherished both the beautiful weather and family time. With the mid-year break quickly approaching, we relish the discoveries still to be made and the learning goals to be reached before the term is out!

Students in Prep-Year 6 are currently learning about the purpose, structure, grammar and writing features of information reports. Did you know information reports present factual information to inform the reader about a specific topic? Examples of information reports may be found in encyclopedia, reference books, technical texts, the atlas, science books, magazines, and even internet websites. Why not help your child locate information texts you have in your home and talk about their features? Have a chat to your child about the topics they have chosen to write an information report about at school.

Our weekly Chapel service, held at LMC every Thursday from 1.30pm, is a time for us to gather as a school community and worship God. Our Junior School leaders take turns to confidently lead this service, with the support of Pastor Matt. It has been a delight to see students from a range of year levels lead worship and present a message for us to remember. Chapel is also a time to celebrate our learners, with one student from each class awarded a Student of the Week certificate. A highlight is the Performer of the Week segment, where we are amazed by the musical talents of those who learn an instrument. Parents are welcome to attend and seating is available at the rear of the Chapel. Praise God that we get to enjoy this time together!

Junior School Production



This year, we will present to you the Disney production of *Lion King JR*. Roles have been filled by many able Year 6 students and rehearsals will soon begin, with students learning lines and actions for what promises to

be an exciting performance. All Prep–Year 6 students will participate and we look forward to seeing all students shine on stage. Please put these dates in your diary: Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 September. Students are expected to attend both evening performances. Please look out for further information about ticket sales and costume requirements in Term 3.

The Junior Division Cross Country was held on Tuesday 4 June at the Yarra Glen Racecourse, with selected students from Years 3-6 representing Oxley Christian College in a positive and encouraging manner. Congratulations to all participants for their efforts and to Mr Gaschk for his organisation. We certainly have some very capable runners in our midst, many of whom enjoy the weekly opportunity to train in Running Club.

Please remember that tomorrow, Friday 14 June, is **Report Writing Day** for our teachers and is a **Student Free day**. No students are required at school. Reports will be distributed on the last day of term for Prep to Year 6 students. In Term 3, we will conduct Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 30 July (4.00pm - 8.30pm) and Thursday 1 August (4.00pm - 6.00pm). We welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. Information about booking your interview via the Parent Portal will be sent home in the letter accompanying your child's report.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Sharee Gaiser
Head of Junior School

What Did You Do at School Today?

Prep

We are enjoying our daily devotions and sharing of Bible stories. During Christian Studies, we learnt about Daniel and the Lions' Den. We found out that Daniel loved God and prayed to God every day. God loved Daniel and kept him safe when he was in a cave filled with lions. We loved making a collage using paper with our Prep friends from both classes.



Hope (Prep M) Andie (Prep W)



Xander (Prep W) Ryan (Prep M)

Year 1

We have written wonderful information reports about animals. We included a title, sub-headings and fascinating facts. We learnt a lot about the appearance, habitat, food, movement and protection of our chosen creatures. Our teachers are so proud of our research efforts and the presentation of our informative posters! We have even begun creating an information report about an imaginative animal - what fun!

Year 2

We have had an exciting couple of weeks in Year 2! In writing, we have been learning about Information Reports. We thought carefully about our passions and created a list of topics in which we are experts! We practised telling the difference between facts and opinions. Did you know a fact is a true statement that can be proven? We are so excited to begin writing our reports next week. In Maths, we are learning to be magnificent mathematicians who persevere through challenges. We have been using open number lines to solve tricky subtraction problems. We now understand that this is an important skill that will assist us when working with large numbers.

Year 3

We have been enjoying learning about collecting data and creating graphs. We have conducted many surveys to determine our favourite ice-cream flavours, sports and hobbies. We have explored how to represent our findings in column and picture graphs. It is important to include a title and label the X and Y axes on our graphs. We have even put our data results into Excel and created pie graphs!

Year 4

We have been investigating what is *Beneath our Feet*. No, not our school shoes, but the surface of the Earth. Did you know that there are three different types of rocks? They are sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous. Using magnifying glasses, we examined the features of these rocks and created labelled, scientific diagrams. Year 4 rocks!

Year 5

What an amazing fortnight of learning we have had, the climax of which was our excursion to IMAX and the Planetarium. After learning about the enormity of God's creation of Space, it was phenomenal to see images from the Hubble telescope, leaving us in awe of the creativity and splendour of our God! Watching the astronauts repair the Hubble telescope in Space was unbelievable; working as a team in very difficult conditions so that we can see all of creation! It was wonderful seeing images of the night sky and we were shown different clusters of stars and where the planets are located in the night sky. Thank you to our fabulous parent helpers: Mrs Eleveld, Ms Wei, Mrs Geoghegan-Biggar and Mrs Kirby-Beach, who joined us on our fabulous day!

Year 6

What an awesome week! In Christian Studies, we responded to a story in the Bible by writing a poem, essay or drawing a picture. We have been blessed to have Miss Schilte, a pre-service teacher from ACU, visiting our class for two weeks. She has taught us how to see decimals as fractions and how to create some math-focused art. Year 6 parents, please see the note about the Night of the Notables event, to be held on Tuesday 25 June, 5.30pm in the Staff Room. We are incredibly excited to show you our learning.

Written by Breanna Steuart and Keira Jennings

Poem written by Breanna Steuart 6W, in response to a Christian Studies lesson:

Calming the Storm

Undisturbed, quietly dozing,
A deep calmness surrounded Him.
Resting his drowsy legs,
Jesus quietly slept.

Water flushing in,
Saturating its contents.
Filling the capacity,
Of the small, innocent boat.

Screaming followers of God,
A frantic rush of panic,
A question of direction,
Startled awake the sleeping man.

"How come you don't care?"
They questioned.
"How do You rest while we expire?"
They asked in dismay.

The man sat up,
With tears in His eyes,
For His kind followers,
Were losing faith.

The waters around Him crashed,
Deep, vivid, blues, greys, blacks.

Raging winds and waters,
Bellowing thunder and lightning.

"Be quiet, be still,"
He said with four small words.
Crashing waves now flat,
Hushed, speechless, quiet.

His followers stood in awe,
In wonder and in silence,
The unthinkable had been done
By God's one and only Son.

Exams

Exams are over – what next?

Examination week is over! We thank all students in Years 7-11 for their effort and focus during this busy, and sometimes stressful, time. By now, most students will have received their results, and there will have been a range of responses. Some will be elated at their score – the hard work paid off! Others may be disappointed in their results. Whatever the outcome, it is important to reflect on exam results so you can see what you did well, and areas in which you can improve. Here are a few simple tips for what to do after exams.

- **Celebrate!** Exams are difficult, and if you are pleased with how you went, that is worth smiling about. Success can take many forms, too. Maybe just getting through the week was a victory. It could be you did a little better than last time. Did you set goals and achieve them? Make sure you celebrate the victories. Success is not limited to the A+ result – sometimes that hard-earned C is a personal triumph.
- **Reflection.** If you have been successful, identify the factors which led to this success so you can build on them for future exams. If you are unhappy with your results, there will need to be a time for you to pause and reflect on what may have gone wrong and to consider what can be put in place for the future. There are many factors that could potentially affect our performance – some that we can control, and some that we can't. It is good to devise specific strategies to deal with the factors we do have some control over. We should always try to learn from our experiences – including exams. Teachers, parents and classmates may have some good ideas you can use to prepare for the next round of exams.
- **Discussions.** If you are feeling down about your level of achievement, you need to talk to a compassionate and objective listener about it. This person could be a trusted teacher, your Coordinator, a parent. Talking about your feelings and realising you are not alone are key steps to building confidence and overcoming setbacks. You can identify your strengths, but also areas for improvement that you can develop over time.

In summary, always remember that semester exams are just one way of assessing your knowledge and skills.

Everything else you have accomplished still counts. Because we live in a society in which the education system is exam-driven, it can be easy to believe that how you perform in a series of 90 minute exams defines who we are or what we are capable of achieving in life. In fact, defining ourselves based solely on our successes and failures can be dangerous. Exam results don't show how brave you are, how compassionate you are, how strong, loyal, creative, intelligent, kind, generous, funny and determined you are.

In conclusion: Celebrate your successes; reflect on areas for improvement; and talk to someone if you aren't feeling great about things. We hope you enjoy the upcoming mid-year break and have plenty of time to relax with family and friends.

This article has been adapted from <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/how-deal-stress-over-exam-results>

Steven White
Head of Humanities

This is also an opportunity for families who were unable to have individual student or student sibling photos taken last month. Please ensure you let Student Reception know before Thursday, 25 July, that you would like your child to be photographed so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Anniversary Photo

A laminated copy of the 40th Anniversary School Photo has been sent home with the youngest student in each family this week. Keep an eye out for your family's complementary photo, which we hope you enjoy for years to come. This photo is also available mounted and ready to hang on 9mm bevelled board at a cost of \$60, and can be viewed at Student Reception. Please chat to Student Reception if you would like to order one, before the deadline of Friday 21 June.

Sydney Green
PA to the Principal

School Photos

As a College, we celebrate some of our milestones with a photographic record.

Each year, our students and families are given an opportunity to purchase a photographic record of their student involvement. The bulk of these photos were taken last month.

Miscellaneous group photos are now available for ordering and can be viewed in the display cabinet outside the Administration Office. SchoolPix will be returning to the College on Monday 29 July to take further photos including Junior School music groups and Junior School leaders.

Lost Property

There is a variety of glasses, watches, jewellery, food containers, drink bottles and uniform items that have been handed in. If you are missing anything, please note that lost property will be on display outside the Resource Centre from Monday 17 June to identify and claim anything that belongs to you.



Please remember to label all items brought to school.

Athelia Du Preez
Office Manager



Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund – Closing Soon

Reminder to Parents holding a concession card. Don't miss out on your payment from the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

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 is:

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

For more information about CSEF, and to download the CSEF application form, visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>.

Note: Application forms are also available at the Reception Desk at the College's Administration Office. Application forms will only be accepted up to 28 June 2019.

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 do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Dawn Pryor, Accounts Receivable Officer, or Mr Andrew Holland, Business Manager, on 9727 9900.

Andrew Holland
Business Manager

Enrolments

2020

Parents intending to enrol children (who are not already enrolled at Oxley Christian College) for 2020 are strongly advised to do so now as we have limited vacancies in some year levels. Please obtain an Enrolment Application Form, Fee Schedule and Business Statement from the Administration Office.

2021

We are also accepting enrolments for 2021 and beyond (particularly Prep and Year 7) and again, we encourage you to submit your completed Enrolment Application Form as soon as possible.

Notice to Withdraw

Parents are reminded of their obligation to give the College one full term's notice, in writing to the Principal, if their children are not continuing at Oxley Christian College. The lack of one term's notice will result in the payment of one term's Tuition Fees.

It is also a legal requirement for you to inform us of the school to which your child's enrolment is transferring.

Caroline Lewis
Registrar



Oxley Kids is now taking enrolments for 2021 and beyond. Call or email us today if you would like to book in child care or kindergarten for your child.

Phone 9727 9200 or email office@oxleykids.vic.edu.au.

Kim Sopar
Oxley Kids Director



Entertainment Books

Help raise funds for our Student Clubs!

Get your Entertainment Membership NOW to help Oxley raise funds for our Student Clubs. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time. Just \$70 will give you over \$20,000 of value! Hurry, Entertainment Memberships sell out quickly. Go to www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/18693c3. Thank you for your support!

Notice Board

2019 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/
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

June	Thursday	13	Soiree Evening (6.00pm and 8.00pm, BPAC)
	Friday	14	Student Free Day (Correction Day)
	Tuesday	18	ThinkUknow Cyber Safety Evening (7.30pm, BPAC)
	Wednesday	19	School at Work (9.50am-11.30am, BPAC)
	Thursday	20	Senior Ensemble Evening (7.00pm, LMC) Year 7 Excursion
	Monday	24	Year 9 Mock Elections
	Mon-Fri	24-28	Year 10 Work Experience
	Tuesday	25	Year 6 – Night of Notables (5.30pm, Staff Room)
	Wednesday	26	Junior Ensemble Evening (7.00pm LMC)
	Thursday	27	Year 5 Science Expo (2.45pm - 3.15pm) Year 8-9 Girls Football Carnival
July	Friday	28	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Excursion Last Day Term 2
	Wednesday	17	Year 10 Bee Brain Challenge Finals
	Thursday	18	Year 3 - 6 State Cross Country
	Monday	22	Term 3 Start
	Tuesday	23	Year 10 into Year 11 Afternoon
	Wednesday	24	Year 10 into Year 11 Evening
	Thursday	25	Junior School Leadership Chapel
	Thu-Sat	25-27	Music Camp
	Monday	29	Junior School Miscellaneous and Music Photos
	Tuesday	30	Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00pm - 6.00pm)
Aug	Wednesday	31	VTAC Information Evening
	Thursday	1	Year 12 Drama Excursion Junior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00pm - 6.00pm)
	Wed-Fri	7-9	Book Fair
	Wednesday	7	High School Musical Rehearsal
	Thur-Fri	8-9	High School Musical Performances
	Wednesday	14	School at Work (9.50am - 11.30am, BPAC)
	Sat-Fri	17-23	Book Week
	Monday	19	Year 11 Legal Excursion
	Friday	23	Year 11 Dinner



OXLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A Coeducational School | Prep to Year 12

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