OXLEY DANCE SHOWCASE 2011

On Thursday Night 28 July, Dance students from Years 7-12 performed at our fourth Annual Dance Showcase. This year, with the greatest number of HSC performances thus far, we drew a crowd of 130 audience members from our wider school community. Featured in the Showcase were HSC Core Performance, Core Composition and Major Study Composition works of our HSC Dance students (Stephanie Bailey, Kristen Carter, Kaitlyn Dunst, Bridget Long, April Murphy-Christian, Sequoya Oldman, Kimberley Resch, Lillian Strudwick and Yosphol Sundaravej). We had a number of junior students perform the HSC Core Compositions including Taylor Johnston (Y8), Abby Condon and Andrea Savage (Y9), Gabrielle Seton and Ruby Newall (Y10) Katie Barnes and Erika Savage (Y11). Along with the solo performances were a number of group ensemble items including the Year 9 elective class "Social Network" dance, the Year 10 elective class performing "Imagine", a "Bollywood" piece and "All That Jazz" and the "Deadly Yinarrs" who performed our Welcome to Country.

OXLEY DANCE SHOWCASE CONTINUED:

All in all, the show was a great success, with money raised from ticket sales contributing to improved technology and visual aids in the PAC. Many thanks to Mr Sean McInnes, who was our highly entertaining MC for the evening and Mr Matt Parnell with his sound and lighting crew of Angus Young (Yr11) and Shenae Hamilton (Yr10). Also thanks to the CAPA Council for running the Canteen and all the parents, staff and students for your continual support of Dance and the Performing Arts at Oxley High School.

Irem Mooney - Dance Teacher, Relieving Head Teacher-Middle School

P & C PRESIDENT’S REPORT

We have had a very successful Antique Fair and I would like to thank the many volunteers, parents, teachers and friends of Oxley who gave a massive amount of time and effort to make it such a success. While there were many who gave days of effort a particular mention must be made of the work of Helen Brennan, Euan Coulls and Wendy Newby. While that brings to an end our major fund raising events for the year, apart from the ongoing work at the Canteen, parents / carers can still do their part for the School.

Parents / Carers if you have not paid your school contribution, (only about 20% have) please do so as soon as possible. It is money needed by the school and by paying that contribution you are giving a positive message to the school community that you appreciate and care about the school your child / children attend.

The issue of how we can encourage parents / carers to pay the contribution will be discussed at the next P & C meeting (next Monday 22 August). The aim will be to draft a motion for the following meeting as to how the P & C will adjust its contribution to the school to reflect the aim that the P & C is there for the whole school community. The P & C is not there to subsidise those who fail to contribute to the school. It seems that the parents/carers who pay the contribution are also the volunteers and so the P & C should reflect their contribution to the school. One idea presently doing the rounds is to double the cost of using the bus (The P & C, excluding depreciation, pays for more than ½ of the running costs of the bus) and then charge ½ the fare for those who pay the contribution. Another idea is to increase the travel / accommodation subsidy to academic and sporting events to only those students of families who have made the school contribution. We are looking for more ideas, as the P & C should contribute significant items to the school to benefit all students, such as the recent contributions to Visual Arts, Agriculture and Music, and at the same time recognise families / carers who give to the school.

Please have a look at the proposal that is drawn up and be ready to express your thoughts at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the PAC on Monday 6.15pm. Please attend our meetings.

Irem Mooney - P & C President
MOCK TRIAL REGIONAL CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Our undefeated Mock Trial Team have advanced to the top 32 in this prestigious State wide competition. They have defeated, Charlton Christian College, Calrossy, Coonabarabran High School and Carinya to become regional winners. The Regional Final against Carinya was a closely fought civil case. The team consisted of Samuel Davidson and Angus Young as Barristers, Jacky Ye as Solicitor, Nikki Erdos and Laura Campbell as Witnesses and Miriam Hansford as Magistrates Clerk.

The next round is against Hunter Valley Grammar School at Scone Courthouse on Friday 26 August. The only changes to the side will be Laura Campbell moving to Barrister, due to Samuel Davidson having commitments elsewhere and Cameron Young becoming a Witness.

Many thanks must go to Richard Frazer from Newman and Pengilley, for his time, expertise and the invaluable advice he gives to these talented and dedicated young students.

YEARS GOLD COAST EXCURSION 2011

There are still limited places available for Year 8 Students to go on this excursion.

DATES: Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October 2011 (Term 4, Week 3)

COST: $450 per student (includes all meals, coach fare, camp fees and entrance fees).

PAYMENT: The organisation of the excursion is now being finalised and the itinerary is being confirmed. It is now important that student numbers be confirmed.

Full payment is due Friday 23 September 2011 (Term 3 Week 10) if payment is not made by this date, students will have their name taken off the excursion list.

For any further queries regarding this excursion please contact Mrs Irem Mooney 6766 1677 or via school email. Relieving Head Teacher - Middle School

TAFE NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE TRADE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Workshop date: Tuesday 30th August, 2011
Session Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Arrival Time: 6.15pm for 6.30pm start
Venue: Heritage Room, Tamworth Community Centre, Darling St

The workshop aims to provide information to students and parents regarding Industry Pathways and employment opportunities, School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships which allows you to gain credit towards the HSC, receive a qualification and gain valuable work related skills.

Get a head start into your career.
There will be light refreshments available on the night.

TAMWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tamworth Historical Society will be holding its bi-annual Calala Cottage Spring Fair on Sunday, 18 September.

Where: 142 Denison St, Tamworth
When: Sunday, September 18
Time: 10am-4pm

There will be, sheep shearing, machinery, Tamworth’s oldest structure, vintage cars, face painting, entertainment, Bar-B-Q and much more.

XIAN AND BEIJING TOUR 2012

In the last sixteen years a very successful excursion has been conducted by the P & C where a large number of students and parents have visited Beijing. This year due to the strength of the Australian dollar we have been able to maintain the cost at the 2011 price. The tour also includes a visit to the World Heritage Terra Cotta Warriors in the ancient city of Xian.

The excursion to China will be held in the first week of the April School Holidays 2012 - 7 to 17 April.

Tour cost: $2,490 + tax per Adult twin share or $2,350 + tax per Student twin share

Tour Inclusions:

- Superior class accommodation with private facilities in Beijing.
- Transfers in Beijing and Xian
- Transportation and entrance fees to all venues and events
- Buffet style breakfast every day
- Hot lunch on the touring days and most evening meals
- Tour guide / interpreter.

Students, parents and friends of Oxley High School are eligible to participate on this trip. Already there has been a lot of interest shown in the 2012 tour, so it is important to pay your deposit early to secure your seat.

Mr Green will be organising this tour, based upon his successful tours which have operated since 1995. If interested you can make a deposit of $500 by cash, cheque, or credit card. If payment is made by cheque please make out to the Oxley High School P & C.

BACKPACKS AND YOUR CHILD

There have been several concerns raised recently in regard to the safe use of backpacks.

In response to these concerns we are encouraging parents and students to follow the directions below when choosing a backpack and the suggestions for the correct use of a backpack to avoid injury to students at Oxley High School.

How to select your child's backpack:

Size - The backpack should fit neatly into the child's back and it should not hang below the child's waist. A loaded backpack should not fall more than 10cm below the waistline.

Shoulder straps - There should be two adjustable well-padded shoulder straps and the strap anchors should fall 3-5cm below the top of the shoulder.

Waist Belt - The pack should have a waist belt to ensure that the weight in the pack is carried correctly.

How to properly load and wear a school backpack

Studies have shown back and neck pain in school aged children is most frequently caused by improper backpack use. Painful muscle imbalances really can lead to long term postural defects. However, carrying a school backpack doesn't need to cause alarm. Follow these loading and carrying guidelines to eliminate the most common sources of backpack related pain in children:

The 10% rule - never allow your child to carry more than 10% of his or her weight in the backpack. For example, a 60kg child should never carry more than 6kg in the backpack.

Heavy items in back - Securely pack heavier items to remain close to your child's back.

Keep it clean - Remove items not needed for school that day to minimise weight.

Wear both shoulder straps - Distribute weight evenly across both shoulders by always wearing both straps. Adjust straps to allow free movement of the arms without twisting or bending to the side.

Use the waist belt - Reduce load on the shoulders and neck by securely fastening the waist belt.

Centre the pack - Wear the backpack centered across the curve of the mid back. It should not hang below the waistline.

When the pack reaches the 10% rule - If this is the case and there are still items that need to be taken to school, then they should be carried in both arms in front of the body.

Pick up the backpack properly - Teach your child how to pick up his or her backpack by demonstrating how to bend at the knees and grasp the pack with both hands before putting it on.
ATHLETICS REPORT

It has been a busy year for Athletics for Oxley High School with many outstanding results from our students. On Tuesday 21 June, Mr Rae, Mr Bryan, Mrs Hawthorne and a number of students went to the Arinya Zone Athletics Carnival. Our Oxley students were very successful in many events with a number of relay teams and students in individual events gaining selection for the North West Carnival.

The following students were awarded Age Champions:

- Hannah Ellsley - 12 Years Girls
- Lia Mills - 13 Years Girls
- Brianna Fritsch and Zoey Ison - 15 Years Girls (Shared)

Lia Mills also set a new Arinya Zone Record in the 13 Years 100m with a time of 13.22 seconds. Because of these and other outstanding performances on the day, Oxley High School was awarded the 2011 Arinya Zone Champion School.

Well done to all who participated on the day. The North West Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 29 July. Mr Bryan, Mr Maxwell and a group of keen athletes attended the day with near perfect conditions. Oxley High was very successful with a number of students qualifying for the State CHS Athletics Trials in September.

The students who qualified were as follows:

- Nathan O’Sullivan: 16 Years 1500m
- Hannah Ellsley: 12 Years 100m, 200m, High Jump, Long Jump, Discus and Relay
- Lia Mills: 13 Years 100m, 200m, 800m, Relay and 14 Years 400m
- Wade Hazell: 17 Years 200m, 400m and Relay
- Zoey Ison: 15 Years Javelin
- 13 Years Relay - Eric Fowler, Zach Kam, Dylan Langenbaker and John Moore
- 17 Years Relay - Harry Moore, Nicholas Press and Lachlan Willis
- 12 Years Relay - Tiana Constable, Kate Munson and Amber-Lea Phillpott
- 13 Years Relay - Emma Gifford, Bronete Harris and Dana Nock
- 15 Years Relay - Kate Falkenmire, Brianna Fritsch, Ainslea Sweeney and Alyssa Walton

Congratulations to all students who participated in the carnival and especially to the above students who qualified for the CHS Athletics.

It is important that students wishing to go to the CHS Athletics have their North West permission notes signed by Mr O’Brien and Mr Maxwell as soon as possible. This signed form and money needs to be returned to the North West Office before the cut off date.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students for Excelling in their sport and receiving awards.

360 Fitness Club Sports Person

MAY: Philippa Tockuss - Selection in State Gymnastics Team (Level 8 State Champion on Vault)
JUNE: Kimberley Resch - Won Country Championships in Touch Football (Named Player of the Final)
JULY: Tori Saunders - Won Heinrich Haussler Racing Kangaroos Junior Two Day Tour
McDonalds Team of the Month

JULY: Open Girls Hockey Regional Champions: Brooklyn Cooper, Phillipa Fisher, Brianna Fritsch, Elizabeth Grills, Georgia Hall, Katie Hartley, Emily Jenner, Heidi Kelly, Ruby Kelly, Gabrielle Killen, Tessa Pennefather, Kimberley Resch, Madision Robinson, Lucy Webster.

Video Ezy Encouragement / Merit

MAY: Percy Duncan: Selection in Central North Rugby League Team.
Mcich Scarth: Selection in Central North Rugby Union Team. Winning Country Championships.
Rebecca McGoldrick: Selection in Northern Inland Emerging Breakers Womens Cricket Team.
JUNE: Robert Walker: Selection in North West Squash Team.
North West Cross Country Team: Lia Mills (1st in Region), Laura Potter (2nd in Region), Tori Saunders (4th in Region), Ethan Graham (6th in Region), Brodie Sweeney (6th in Region).
Benjamin Koopman: North West Golf Team.
Harrison Buhrer: 13yrs Central North Rugby Union Team.
Andrew Finch: Selected in State U15’s Hockey Squad.

GIRLS OPEN NETBALL

Last week saw the girls progress to the North West Final in the NSW CHS Netball Knockout Competition, by defeating Coonabarabran High School 43-36. The first quarter started out slowly for Oxley High School and they found their confidence to lead 12-10. Both sides were defending brilliantly to take the score to 21-10 at half time. The third quarter saw Oxley’s attacking brilliance take their lead to ten points, 36-26.

By the time you read this, Oxley will have either defeated or been defeated by Duval High School to progress to the State Top 16 Round Robin. Go girls!!
Katrina Davis (Manager)

CHS GYMNASTICS

The CHS Gymnastics were held at the Hunter Sports Centre on Wednesday 10 August. Oxley had two students, Whitney Johnston and Philippa Tockuss, who were the only two in the North West Team A Division. The other regions that had teams participating were Hunter, Sydney South West, Sydney North, Sydney West, South Coast and Sydney East were also there with teams in B Division.

The Girls competed on all four apparatus; Vault, Bars, Beam and Floor. Their results were:

- Philippa Tockuss - 1st on Vault, 3rd on Floor, 6th on Beam and 13th on Bars.
- Whitney Johnston - 3rd on Vault, 4th on Bars, 6th on Floor and 10th on Beam.

To return home with three medals has been a great achievement at a State level. They represented Oxley High and the North West with pride.

A big thank you goes to their Gymnastic Coach Steve McGinnity who took time out from his work to attend and coach on the day.

SPORTS COUNCIL DISCO

The Sports Council will be holding the Term 3 Disco - Week 6 Wednesday Night 24 August - Doors Open 6.45pm. Students must be in hall by 7.15pm. Disco finishes at 10pm.

The theme will be Black and White. Last day of tickets sales will be on Monday 22 August at Lunctime in the Namoi Block. Cost of ticket is $4. Signed official permission note and swipe card must be presented at time of ticket purchase.

GIRLS OPEN NETBALL

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EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD IN 2012

It is hoped that in 2012 Oxley High School will be able to take a group of senior students on a trip of a lifetime to see the sites of ancient Greece and to explore the art galleries and ruins of Italy. It is also open to parents and priority will be given to students who are in the senior school.

It is proposed that this excursion take place from 24 March until 22 April, 2012 which involves the last ten days of Term 1 and ten days of the school holidays. The proposed cost at present is about $5,800 each but this will probably be less owing to the strength of the Australian dollar. We hope to visit Venice, Florence, Rome, Pompeii, Paestum in Italy and Athens and the Peloponnesse in Greece. At present there has been quite a bit of interest shown but we need some statements of definite intention soon with a non-refundable deposit of around $500 paid to the Front Office. We need at least 20 students / parents to proceed beyond the planning stage and expressions of interest should be directed to Mrs Kennedy in the History staffroom.

MUSIC STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- State Senior Wind Band (Years 9-12)
  Students selected from Oxley High to perform in this State ensemble with other students from NSW Public High Schools. They performed in the Opera House - 8-9 August.
  - Angus Young (Y11) Clarinet
  - Cameron Young (Y10) Tenor Sax
  - Toby Harradine (Y8) Bassoon
  (Selected for Senior Band as a Junior)

- Vocal Camp Choir auditioned and were chosen to be a featured item in State Choral Festival - Sydney Opera House - 25 August.
  - Shenae Hamilton (Y10)

ST JENNIFER HAWTHORNE SAMBER QUALITY SCHOOL

Thank you to all the wonderful parents / carers / students / teachers who donated to my Marathon Run in Brisbane in aid of the St Jennifer Hawthorne Samber Quality School. You raised $603.35 and this means I have raised just over $4000.00 (donations still coming in) and so we can start building that classroom.

While the run was difficult (it was hot) and I believe about 650mts longer than the 42.2km and I was also not helped by having to walk down 24 floors the night before the run due to a fire alarm. The run was worth it, given the magnificent effort Oxley High School made to support me. To be honest it was that which kept me going. The memories and experiences I accumulated over these two weeks will stay with me for the rest of my life.

The opportunities I had to experience life in the major cities of Istanbul and Paris. Other highlights of this amazing trip included walking on Gallipoli, during WWI, many of whom were not much older than me. The Western Front. Together we were able to walk in the footsteps of my great grandfathers who served there in WWI.

One major highlight of this incredible trip was to lay a wreath on behalf of Oxley High School staff and students during the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. I was honoured to be able to represent my family, school and country in the remembrance of the courage and sacrifice of tens of thousands of young men who fought and died during WWI, many of whom were not much older than me.

Other highlights of this amazing trip included walking on Gallipoli, experiencing the amazing Turkish culture, walking through ancient sites including Troy and Ephesus, visiting WWII battlefields and cemeteries including Polygon Wood where my great grandfather was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery and being able to experience life in the major cities of Istanbul and Paris.

The memories and experiences I accumulated over these two weeks will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you to all the wonderful parents / carers / students / teachers who donated to my Marathon Run in Brisbane in aid of the St Jennifer Hawthorne Samber Quality School. You raised $603.35 and this means I have raised just over $4000.00 (donations still coming in) and so we can start building that classroom.

Many Thanks.

Michael O’Connor

OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE AT MENIN GATE

In the July school holidays, my family and I embarked on an excursion with Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School to Gallipoli and the Western Front. Together we were able to walk in the footsteps of my great grandfathers who served there in WWI.

One major highlight of this incredible trip was to lay a wreath on behalf of Oxley High School staff and students during the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. I was honoured to be able to represent my family, school and country in the remembrance of the courage and sacrifice of tens of thousands of young men who fought and died during WWI, many of whom were not much older than me.

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The memories and experiences I accumulated over these two weeks will stay with me for the rest of my life. by Nicholas Browne