**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE - MR TIM O’BRIEN - 67661677**

**Year 10 Central Excursion: Payments are to be finalised by Friday the 1st of April 2011.**

On Wednesday the 23rd of March we celebrated Harmony Day. Ms Mooney and her team of students ran an outstanding assembly for the middle school and senior Schools. Two members of our school community, Yosphol (yoshi) Sundaravej of year 12 and his mum, Mrs Amalin Sundaravej made a very special contribution to the celebrations.

**Year 7 Progress Reports:** Reports were issued to students in period 5 on Wednesday. These reports are intended to give an overview of the first weeks in High School, more detailed reports are distributed at the end of Term Two and there will be Parent/Teacher nights in the Term 3.

**Year 12 Reports:** Reports have been issued. Bookings for parent interviews can be made at Macquarie Office by phone or in person from Monday 28th March 2011. Year 12 Parent Teacher night is on Wednesday 6th April from 4pm to 6pm.

**YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY IN PEEL STREET**

As part of the study of Urban Places, a field trip to the Central Business District was undertaken last week. To better appreciate the impact of urban renewal in Peel Street and the influence of other urban places such as Sydney, on the culture of smaller urban places, the students experienced al fresco dining at some of the eating places in this precinct.

A number of students and their teacher enjoyed the pleasant streetscape, energy and vitality that is apparent in this redeveloped main street of Tamworth.

Mr Craig Redmayne

Photo (L to R): Taylah Linnet, Amy Howard, Sara Farrell, Jessica Simpson, Mariah O’Donnell, Rachel Ostler and Laura Ness

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**P & C REPORT**

**REMINDER: INTERNATIONAL NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 25 MARCH 6.00PM.**

**BE THERE AND SUPPORT YOUR P & C**

This Friday International Night will once again provide great food at rock bottom prices. Because of the generosity of sponsors and support from parents you will have a great food experience for a small cost and a further bonus is, you will be helping your child/children by helping to raise money for the P & C which will be spent on the school. It is a win/win situation for all, it is great fun and you can also experience the talent of some of our students who will be performing, using new sound equipment provided by the P & C.

**REMINDER PLEASE PAY YOUR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL.** IT IS LESS THAN THE COST 4 PACKETS OF CIGARETTES A YEAR, A CUP OF COFFEE A FORTNIGHT OR A BEER EVERY THREE WEEKS, OR A BAR OF CHOCOLATE A FORTNIGHT.

**AGM** is next Monday 28 March at 6.45pm. It is your opportunity to get involved and we will be discussing the allocation of approximately $50,000.00 to the school for 2011 and student assistance policy as well as electing officer bearers.

**PLEASE COME**

**TREASURER** We desperately need an individual to take on this role in 2011. A parent with bookkeeping or accountancy experience would be ideal but we will support any person who wishes to take on this important role.

**THINK OR ASK YOUR CHILD “WHAT IF THERE WAS NO CANTEEN”**. We desperately need volunteers, any offer of help will be appreciated, as we are nearly at breaking point where we will have to decide can it continue if we do not get help. Not only would no Canteen immediately affect most parents and students but it would mean more than half of the funds we raise each year will be gone.

On Friday night drop in to the USA stall (volunteers have to be inventive and so an Irishman is running the USA stall) and say ‘hello’.

Michael O’Connor

President P & C

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**AGM P & C MEETING WILL BE HELD ON**

**MONDAY 28 MARCH**

**Venue: The Macquarie Meeting Room in the Front Office 6.45pm**
COUNSELLOR CORNER

For all parents and teachers concerned about the growing incidence of eating disorders in our community, there will be a FREE Community Forum, run by The Butterfly Foundation, held to learn more. The Butterfly Foundation is Australia’s largest charitable foundation supporting people with eating disorder and negative body image. Their mission statement is that “it is our dream that all young people feel happy, confident and loving towards themselves and they have wonderful feelings about who they are and what they can offer the world.”

You are invited to the Community Forum to learn more about these serious illnesses and to have a voice in the prevention and management of eating disorders in our community. Or, if you would simply like to hear about what is already going on, feel free to come along. The details are:

- **DATE**: Wednesday 6 April
- **TIME**: 6.30 - 9.00 pm
- **VENUE**: Tamworth Community Centre, Heritage Room, Darling St.
- **COST**: Free (supper will be provided)

All interested in attending are asked to RSVP by contacting Sally Moy by email sallymoy@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au or by phoning 6767 8443. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ruth Jenkins, School Counsellor

CAREERS CORNER

Health Careers Forum: 40 Senior Students attended the Health Careers Forum that was held in the UDRH at the Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital on Monday. Speakers informed students about all aspects of medicine. The students participated in workshops of their choice including Aboriginal Student Pathways Workshop. The 2 hour session was invaluable in giving students the opportunity to explore Allied Health Career options.

**ATO**: Year 9 and 10 attended a presentation by the Australian Tax Office regarding the importance of obtaining a Tax File Number. Students who didn’t have a Tax File Number filled in a TFN form during the presentation. Please return these completed forms to Mrs Smith or the Castlereagh Office by next Tuesday, 29th March. Tax file numbers should arrive at the students address by the beginning of May.

**Yr 10**: Students who are not attending the Central Excursion, have the opportunity to participate in a Work Experience program during the 2 weeks from Monday, 2nd to Friday 13th May. I encourage students to pick up a Student Placement record form today from the Careers Office and complete the student (and parent) sections including signatures and date. If there are any further questions see Mrs Smith. NOTE: Students need to be able to get to and from their workplace each day and should take their own morning tea and lunch. Forms must be returned to Mrs Smith ASAP (Before the end of term)

Yr10: The Peel Valley Group has School Based Traineeships available in 2012 in Heavy Auto— Diesel (2) Light Auto (1) and Spare Parts (1). See Mrs Smith if interested ASAP.

**Yr 12**: students interested in teaching, especially Mathematics, Science, or Special Education, a conference will be held in Armidale on Monday, 30th May from 9.30-2.30 with information on available Scholarships. See www.teach.nsw.edu.au/documents/armidale.pdf and Mrs Smith if interested.

VACCINATIONS

Years 7 and 10 vaccinations took place on Monday 14 March 2011. Students of Year 7 received Varicella (Chickenpox), Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (dTPa) and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV - Girls ONLY) and Year 10 received Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (dTPa). In the months to come the Year 7 students will receive their Hepatitis B vaccinations over a two-dose course, as well as, the girls only to receive the second and third doses of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

Girls who missed out on their HPV first injection will be unable to receive the following vaccines at school. These students are advised to attend the Hospital vaccination clinics on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Tamworth Base Hospital.

Students in Year 7 who missed out on Varicella (Chickenpox) and/or Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (dTPa) or Year 10 who missed out on Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (dTPa) can still receive these when the vaccination nurses return to a school for the Hepatitis B vaccination day. These students are advised to bring their completed vaccination cards to Mrs Mooney in the PDHPE Staffroom (Castlereagh Block) by the end of Term 1 so that we can identify how many vaccines are required on that “vaccination mop-up” day. Also any student who missed out on receiving a vaccination form should see Mrs Mooney to request a new vaccination form.

Mrs Irem Mooney (Head Teacher Welfare)

DE-CODING THE ADOLESCENT MIND

by Michael McQueen

If you have ever found yourself confused, bemused or even offended by the attitudes and expectations of today’s young people, this session is for you!

In this unique and engaging presentation, Michael McQueen outlines some of the key influences shaping youth culture and the mindsets of Generation Y by examining their paradigm when it comes to notions such as respect, truth, communication, patience and learning.

Get set for a revealing and humorous look at how this younger generation approach and view the world in a very different way to their parents.

**About Michael McQueen.** Michael McQueen is a Sydney-based speaker, social researcher and business owner. In 2004 Michael founded a training consultancy called the Nexgen Group and since then has presented to and worked with over 85,000 people across Australia, South East Asia and North America.

Michael has written two bestselling books. His first Book, “The ‘New’ Rules of Engagement” focuses on demographic trends and strategies for engaging with Generation Y, while his second book “Memento: The Gift of a Lifetime” is designed to help parents and grandparents pass on their stories as a legacy to the next generation.

Michael is a sought-after presenter and features regularly on Television and Radio programs.

Michael will be Presenting a Parent - Community Session

Tuesday 29 March 2011 at Bullimbal SSP
18-36 Degance Street, Tamworth
7.30-8.30pm (followed by a light supper)

Tickets: $10 individual or $15 for a family - available at the door.

For more information contact: Marg Foster Spinks, Tamworth Regional Office, Phone: 67665000
YEAR 8: Year 8 students have been working in class very solidly since the beginning of term. It is pleasing to see the number of students who have been using their diaries regularly and are more organised as a result. It is important that all students use their diary as a record of what they have done and what they need to do. Additionally, teachers use this diary as a form of communication with parents. I would ask parents to check their child’s diary regularly to both ensure that your child is using it and to either receive or send a message to a particular teacher if you wish to contact them concerning progress in a particular subject.

Mr D Lovelock - (Relieving) Head Teacher Stage 4

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21st March each year. It’s a day where all Australians celebrated our cultural diversity. The Day is also the united Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The continuing message for Harmony Day in 2011 is that Everyone Belongs, which means all Australians are a welcome part of our country, regardless of their background. It is a time to reflect on where Australia has come from and recognising traditional owners of this land.

On Wednesday 23rd March 2011 some of our students attended the Harmony Day assembly, where guest speaker Mrs Amalin Sundaravej shared some information regarding her experiences from around the globe. One of our year 12 students Yosphol Sundaravej enlightened us with his experiences as an immigrant to Australia.

Also recognised was National Closing the Gap Day with a presentation from Kobie Abra & Abbey McLean

We were also entertained by Luke Byrnes with his Digital Elders Project, Kelsey Strasek-Barker with her song ‘Fly’.

We would like to thank everyone involved in Harmony Day and we hope you all enjoyed the assembly.

SPORTS COUNCIL

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

**360 Fitness Club Sports person**

January: **Samuel Liles** Selected in State U18s Hockey Team
February: **Lynken Dickson** won State Bantam Weight Boxing Title

**Video Ezy Encouragement / Merit**

January: **Luke Fox** Selected in Central North U17s, U21s Cricket Team and selected in CHS North West Open Boys Cricket Team
**Ben Koopman** Selected in NIAS Golf Development Program
February: **David Ifield** and **Zach Kam** Selected in Northern NSW U13s Football Team

STAGE 4 REPORT

YEAR 7: On Wednesday 23rd February, Year 7 students went to Tea Gardens for three days of team building and socialisation at the Great Aussie Bush Camp (formerly, Leyland Brothers World). They participated in activities such as high ropes, abseiling, alpine rescue, sand dunes and everyone’s favourite - Lost Island (Mud World). Mud World took its toll on all those who participated, particularly a Geography teacher who believed he was in training for the TV show Survivor.

The weather, food and activities were outstanding for the entire three days.

Some of the Year 11 Peer Buddies were also present. From all reports, they enjoyed the activities whilst demonstrating senior leadership skills. They particularly enjoyed the Giant Swing. As to the night time activities, I believe that while Year 11 should be recognised for their efforts and enthusiasm at spotlight, however, an independent inquiry has delivered a verdict that the students fell short of beating the teachers. Skill and guile yet again overcame youth and exuberance. Additionally, I have heard a rumour of a high speed collision between a tree and a staff member. After an exhaustive examination (and medical treatment), I believe the tree is making a slow and steady recovery. Year 11 Peer Buddies are to be congratulated for giving up their valuable time that they willingly devote to the strong Peer Buddy program at Oxley High School. Their time and commitment to Year 7 students is greatly appreciated.

A number of staff gave up their free time in order for the excursion to go ahead. Mrs May, Mrs Martin, Mr Nelmes, Mr Bryan, Miss Jeane, Miss Gardiner, Mr Squires and Mr Howey all had a wonderful time as a result of the excellent behaviour and positive attitude of year 7 students and the strong leadership and maturity displayed by Year 11 Peer Buddies. Thank you to the staff for your support, professionalism and caring natures. Year 7 have now come back refreshed - knowing more about the people they will be spending the next six years with at Oxley High School.
YOUR ANCHOR NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE HOME ON ALTERNATE FRIDAYS FORTNIGHTLY.
THE LOGBOOK IS SENT HOME ONCE A MONTH, THE FRIDAY BEFORE P & C MEETING

SCHOOL LEAVE PASSES
All notes requesting leave passes should be in before DEAR but not later than Period 1, to the Castlereagh Office.
A reason should be stated on the note eg. Doctor’s appointment, with time of departure and an indication of the expected return.
Leave passes during Sport time need to be signed by Mr Maxwell before the student reports to the Castlereagh Office.
If a student is aware of a future absence eg. family, sport or medical leave, a note should be sent into the Castlereagh office prior to the leave.

RAILCORP CONCESSION CARDS
If any student is turning 16 and they need to travel by train, there are RailCorp Concession Cards for 2011 available at the Front Office. These will be available at the beginning of April.
Please take advantage of these Concession Cards and send your child to collect.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS LISTED BELOW WHO HAVE RECEIVED SILVER CERTIFICATES WHICH RECOGNISE COMMITMENT IN A RANGE OF SCHOOL SITUATIONS
Silver Certificates:
Year 12  Neil Heckrotte
Year 9  Laura Cotter-Bradley X 2
Year 8  Samantha Bradbery x 2, Matthew Clarke

INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT
Friday 25 March from 6.00pm
Oxley High School Quadrangle
A chance to try gourmet delights from America, Australia, China, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Polynesia, Thailand, Turkey
Entertainment by Oxley’s Drama and Music Students
Cost $4 per serve or 3 serves for $10.
Further information: Mrs Wendy Newby 67618578

PHONE ENQUIRIES
The school has two phone numbers:
For General School Enquiries and Contact with the Principal and / or Staff Phone 67661677.
For Enquiries regarding Attendance / Absences / Lateness / Leave Passes Please Phone 67661028.

CREATE
DANCE, MUSIC, ART WORKSHOPS
Presented by the Youthie and Joblink Plus Youth Connections Tamworth.
What is CREATE? An opportunity for young people (12-18 years) to learn new skills, express their talents and share it with the world.
When: Tuesday 12-14 April 2011 from 10.00am-4.00pm daily with a showcase on Thursday Night 14 April
Family and Friends are invited to come along. No Cost but you will need to register to be a part of the workshops and be committed for the three days.
Where: The Youthie and other local venues (tba)
You must register to be involved - Limited spots available for each workshop so register TODAY.
Call the Youthie: 67664645 or Youth Connections: 67646666

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28 March - Monday 6.45pm  AGM P & C Meeting
6 April - Wednesday 4.00-7.00pm  Parent Teacher Evening Year 12 (Year 7 Invitation Only)
8 April - Friday  Last Day Term 1
11-27 April Friday - Monday  School Holidays
22 April - Friday  Good Friday
25 April - Monday  Easter Monday/Anzac Day
27 April - Wednesday  School Development Day - Student Free Day
28 April - Thursday  Term 2 Commences for Students
29 April - Friday  Year 10 Central Excursion Leaves - Returns 13 May