PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE - MR TIM O’BRIEN - 67661677:
OUTSTANDING AMBASSADORS:
Congratulations to our Year 8 student, Stephanie Penrose and Music teacher, Mr Parnell, on being chosen to perform at the opening of the new Sports Dome. They performed the National Anthem and from all reports were outstanding.

CENTRAL EXCURSION:
From all reports students and staff had an enjoyable experience. Thank you to all staff for making the time available from their families to ensure the excursion occurred. Also to staff and students who were at school ensuring teaching and learning continued with minimum disruptions. I urge all Year 10 students to reengage with their normal schooling and achieving their personal best.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATION:
I remind parents to talk with their child regarding their progress at school. If a student presents with ongoing poor academic performance, non completion of assessments or behaviour problems they may not be permitted to represent the school in sporting and extra curricular activities.

P & C REPORT
The year is passing quickly and the next big event for the P&C is the Antique Fair so please keep some time over the weekend beginning Friday 29 July free to attend and support your school.

Great news we have had a volunteer for the Treasurer’s position and so please come along to our meeting next Monday at 6.45pm 23 May and meet Robyn Hughes who has taken on this most important role in the P&C.

The P&C could not survive and contribute significant monies to the school if it was not from parents putting their hands up and saying “Yes we can do our bit for our children and the other students”. We need more volunteers for the Canteen so please don’t hesitate to offer your help. Again may I remind all parents of the importance and significance of paying the School Contribution. It is the equivalent of about 5 kilos of bananas for the whole year or less than a kilo every two months and while we don’t want donations of bananas at the Front Office, if you can’t pay the full amount up front why not make a monthly or weekly contribution. You would be surprised how much that will help your child and the school.

You are all welcome at the P&C meetings which start at 6.45pm and are usually over by 8.00pm or 8.15pm as I aim to keep them as short as possible.

We look forward to seeing you at our NEXT MEETING.

Canteen Meeting at 6.15pm Monday 23 May.

Mr Michael O’Connor, P&C President

OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL P & C - 2011
Executive: President: Mr Michael O’Connor
Secretary: Mr James Furze
Assistant Secretary: Mrs Lorraine Furze
Treasurer: Mrs Robyn Hughes
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Denise Walker
Vice-President: Mrs Carolyn Young
Patrons: Mrs Wendy Newby and Mr Peter Vickers

Committees: Antique Fair: Mrs Helen Brennan
Camp Oxley: Mr Robert and Mrs Jenny Kelly
Honorary Auditors: Dixon & Goodman Pty Ltd

Congratulations to all the Office Bearers.

Our school values all the work you do for us.

Y8 PROUDLY REPRESENT OXLEY AT THE UNE MATHS DAY
On Friday 13 May eight students from 8MO (Lea Gilchrist, Alisha Perry, Amber Abra, Michelle Nugent, Toby Fox, Ryan McDonald, Andrew Rawlings and Rachel Krechting) travelled to the University of New England (UNE) Armidale for a challenging and rewarding Maths competition. Accompanied by Mr Haworth, our students competed against students from other schools from as far away as Dubbo in what could best be described as a smorgasboard of problem solving, puzzle and construction activities. The tallest tower competition was awesome whilst the algebra patterns were engaging and powerful. The day was a really great team building exercise and an opportunity to apply the work that we have learnt in class. “We didn't come out on top but we sure had a go and had lots of fun.”

P & C MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY - 23 MAY
Venue: The Macquarie Meeting Room in the Front Office - 6.45pm

OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL P & C - 2011
Executive: President: Mr Michael O’Connor
Secretary: Mr James Furze
Assistant Secretary: Mrs Lorraine Furze
Treasurer: Mrs Robyn Hughes
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Denise Walker
Vice-President: Mrs Carolyn Young
Patrons: Mrs Wendy Newby and Mr Peter Vickers

Committees: Antique Fair: Mrs Helen Brennan
Camp Oxley: Mr Robert and Mrs Jenny Kelly
Honorary Auditors: Dixon & Goodman Pty Ltd

Congratulations to all the Office Bearers.

Our school values all the work you do for us.

Y8 PROUDLY REPRESENT OXLEY AT THE UNE MATHS DAY
On Friday 13 May eight students from 8MO (Lea Gilchrist, Alisha Perry, Amber Abra, Michelle Nugent, Toby Fox, Ryan McDonald, Andrew Rawlings and Rachel Krechting) travelled to the University of New England (UNE) Armidale for a challenging and rewarding Maths competition. Accompanied by Mr Haworth, our students competed against students from other schools from as far away as Dubbo in what could best be described as a smorgasboard of problem solving, puzzle and construction activities. The tallest tower competition was awesome whilst the algebra patterns were engaging and powerful. The day was a really great team building exercise and an opportunity to apply the work that we have learnt in class. “We didn't come out on top but we sure had a go and had lots of fun.”
Counsellor Corner...
All students feel anxious at times. Small children, for example, often show great distress when separated from their parents. Young students are often frightened of strangers, thunderstorms, or the dark. These are normal and usually short-lived anxieties. But some students suffer from anxieties severe enough to interfere with the daily activities of childhood or adolescence. Anxious students may lose friends and be left out of social activities. They often experience academic failure and low self-esteem. Because many students with this disorder are quiet and compliant, the signs are often missed. Teachers and parents should be aware of the signs of a possible anxiety problem so that appropriate help can be given. Signs of anxiety may present differently in children and adolescents than in adults. Common signs can include:

- Excessive and persistent worry
- Restlessness and irritability
- Crying or losing temper easily or frequently
- Avoidance and procrastination
- Disruption to sleep and eating patterns
- Decline in academic performance
- Truancy and school refusal
- Increased use of alcohol or other drugs
- Withdrawal from social, class or school activities
- Tiredness and fatigue

Some of the many strategies which can help anxious adolescents include the use of positive reinforcement for their efforts, teaching relaxation techniques and learning to understand their fears and worries through counselling. Parents should talk to their child about any worries they may have; and seek the advice and help of their doctor in cases where anxiety is causing distress over a long period of time.

Ruth Jenkins, School Counsellor

BOYS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) UPDATE

Errea Cup: After victories over Moree High 9-0 (Mitchell O’Keefe 5, Alexander Neill 2, Matthew Edwards 1, Thomas Holloway 1) and Narrabri High 5-0 (Mitchell O’Keefe 3, Thomas Holloway 1, Dylan May 1, Joshua Rogers 1), the Open Boys team has moved into Round 3 of the statewide Errea Cup. In the next fortnight the team will play the winner of Macintyre High v Duval High for a place in the Regional Final.


Bill Turner Cup: After a 4-0 win over Farrer High (Dylan Langenbaker 2, Own Goals 2) in Round 1 of the Bill Turner Cup, the 2011 team ended this year’s campaign with a spirited but unsuccessful effort against Tamworth High. Matthew Clarke scored Oxley’s only goal in a 2-1 loss. The Bill Turner Cup competition involves over 500 teams attracting entries from NSW, ACT, Northern Victoria and Southern Queensland.

Bill Turner Cup Squad 2011: Matthew Clarke, Edward Clements, Mitchell Edwards, Michael Hawkins, Matthew Hollinworth, Dave Ifield, Zach Kam, Dylan Langenbaker, Ryan McDonald, Harrison Pettit, Cody Prendergast, Andrew Rawlings, Nick Ross, Brodie Sweeney and Ryan Tibbs.

Oxley is once again fortunate this year to have the involvement of Mr Wayne May who generously gives of his time to coach the Oxley Boys football teams. His experience and expertise are highly valued. The involvement of both of these teams in these competitions is also facilitated by the Oxley P&C through their support of the School’s minibuses.

Mr Peter Maltby, Coordinator - Boys Football

2011 ANNUAL INTER-SCHOOLS THEATRE SPORTS COMPETITION

Friday 1 April “April Fools Day” saw the 2011 Annual Inter-schools Theatre Sports Competition held at Peel High School and three teams from Oxley High represented the school with comedic style. This year’s festival was based around the concept of “Fiesta” and general Mexican/ Spanish celebrations, so all scenarios, characters and costumes were all based around the theme. All involved, including Mr McInnes, went dressed in their best Gringo outfit and had the best time they could.

We took three teams from Oxley, two junior teams and one senior team, going into competition with two other schools, McCarthy Catholic College and the host school, Peel High. The junior division consisted of four rounds of such games as Emotional Replay and Line from a Bucket and after a miraculous effort, both our junior teams stepped out in the 4th elimination round, missing out by a mere three points. Our senior team, competed in five gruelling rounds with games like Entries and Exits, Party Quirks and the popular Whose Line Is It Anyway? Game. They made it to the final elimination round, only to miss out by a handful of points.

Oxley High didn’t walk away empty handed, however, one of our junior competitors, Kirsty D’Ambros, won the Best Junior Female Performer Award and her team, The Saucy Senoritas, won the Best Dressed Team on the day. All Oxley competitors also took away with them a greater passion for the sport and a greater desire to take out the gold next year.

Sean McInnes
(Capers Regional Drama Coordinator)

2012 KENYA TRIP BAREFOOT BOWLS

Another group is going to visit the school we sponsor in Kenya during the July school holidays. To help fund the mud but we are building in the village and the donations of medications and school supplies for the schools in Rangi, we are holding a Barefoot Bowls Morning on Sunday 22 May at the City Bowling Club starting at 9.30am. Teams of 4 - Cost $40 per team.

There will be a sausage sizzle and raffles on the day.
CENTRAL EXCURSION 2011

We left Tamworth bright and early, prepared for what we thought would be a short trip (well it was only 5cm on the map). Thirteen hours later we arrived at Mitchell QLD. Next it was off to Longreach for a leisurely cruise on a paddle steamer, some great Aussie tucker and bush poetry with Scotty. The next morning was a morning of firsts as we visited the Qantas Museum and Stockman’s Hall of Fame; both were interesting additions to the trip. Back on the bus and on to Cloncurry for the night. The next day, we ventured further into the unknown to find ourselves in the middle of nowhere at Barkley Homestead. Here we became acquainted with a few local snake friends. After an edgy night it was to the Devil’s Marbles for lunch before arriving at Alice Springs for two nights. A bit of a break from travelling, a dance off and shopping trip among the highlights. Back on the bus and on to gorgeous King’s Canyon for an amazing afternoon walk and freezing swim if you were game. The next day was the highly anticipated Uluru climb, which was a definite highlight of the trip and a huge achievement for those who did it. A “friendly” rivalry with Tamworth High, who we met on top, combined with the breathtaking views of the outback made for a day we will never forget. The next day we completed the 10km Olgas walk to complete the three challenging walks of the trip. A town tour andopal mine visit at Coober Pedy and we were back on dirt roads on our next adventure. That night we stayed at the world’s only 5 star caravan park - Oodnadatta, yet another experience we will never forget after seeing 14 kids and 2 dogs pile out of one broken window. The next day we missed our trip to Lake Eyre due to a technical glitch with our foreign made bus (Swedish buses aren’t designed for the Australian outback). A quick repair job by our awesome bus drivers Pete and Dave, then it was on to Port Augusta for more shopping and pizza YUM! Another thrilling bus trip of sing-a-longs and we arrived in Broken Hill. Where despite the below freezing temperatures, we managed to have a great time with some competitive trivia and watched in amusement as Mr Leach and Mr Yeo rediscovered their childhood on a sea-saw. On our second last day we visited Silverton and saw where Mad Max was filmed but the hot food at the local seemed to be the main attraction. That night we stayed at Cobar and although there was more cold weather, we managed to pass the time by playing extremely intense card games. After 90 hours of travelling, 7,000km, six technical glitches, 5,000 energy drinks, 100 mice and about $20,000 spent at various IGA’s along the way, we found ourselves only a few kilometers out of Tamworth and almost home. The trip of a lifetime over just like that. However, none of it would have happened without the dedication of the amazing staff who put up with us for the entire trip. We had the time of our lives and we owe it all to them. Thanks to Mr Hamilton, Mrs Mooney, Mr Coombes, Mr Yeo, Mr Leach, Ms Hammond, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Hollinworth and of course Mr Elston who prepared us before we left.

By Claire Hollinworth, Jessica Mead, Madeleine Patterson and Maddison Robinson (Year 10)

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY SYDNEY FIELD TRIP

Year 12 Geography students spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Week 3 in Sydney undertaking fieldwork related to their coverage of world cities and a case study of the results of urban dynamics in a large city in the developed world.

On Day 1 studies focused on the role of Sydney as a world city and the results of urban decline and urban renewal in the Darling Harbour/Pyrmont area. Highlights of the work on this day included some nice conversations with Mr Redmayne and Mr Maltby, a simulated shopping experience in the exclusive Castlereagh shopping precinct and dinner in the Frisco Hotel restaurant on Woolloomooloo Bay.

On Day 2 a bus journey through the eastern suburbs, to the Botany Bay container terminal and on to the M5 into the western suburbs of Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Cabramatta helped students develop an understanding of the results of suburbanisation and the wider impacts of globalisation. The students were impressed by the Italian village in Norton Street, Leichhardt and especially the gelato. The day was finished off by joining peak hour commuters on the ferry to Manly and tea at the Steyne Hotel.

A study of urban dynamics operating in Balmain around Sydney Harbour was enjoyed on Friday morning. A number of students were thrilled to buy some pastries from Adriano Zumbo’s cake shop, while Mr Redmayne and Mr Maltby purchased some cakes from a stall from the local Montesorri school. The excursion finished up around 2pm on Friday afternoon at the Macquarie Centre in North Ryde after the group had toured Technology Park developments and experienced a large suburban retail centre.

The school is most grateful to parent, Mrs Louise Howard, who accompanied the group as girls’ supervisor and the Oxley P&C who provided subsidised travel for the group through their support of the school minibuses.

The students were accompanied by Geography teachers Mr Redmayne and Mr Maltby and accommodated at the Mariners Court Hotel in Woolloomooloo. The group worked with purpose and enthusiasm and many commented that they enjoyed ‘the noise, colour and energy’ of the areas studied. The supervising teachers really appreciated the approach of all students in the completion of this fieldwork. Once again it was disappointing to see that the students have not discovered any decent music to play on the bus.

Mr C Redmayne/Mr P Maltby
YOUR ANCHOR NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE HOME ON ALTERNATE FRIDAYS FORTNIGHTLY.
THE LOGBOOK IS SENT HOME ONCE A MONTH, THE FRIDAY BEFORE P & C MEETING

RE ITEMS DROPPED OFF AT THE FRONT OFFICE:
Please label any items dropped off at the Front Office to be picked up by a student with the Student Name clearly marked.

NEWSLETTER ITEM FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS, HEALTHY FUTURES 2011 STUDENT SURVEY:
The Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures (HSHF) program is a joint initiative between Department of Education and Training, Catholic Schools and Hunter New England Health. One of the goals of the program is to increase the resilience (including the personal skills and traits, positive influences in a young person’s environment) characteristics of our students and to improve their health and wellbeing.

Our school has been selected among thirty two high schools from across the New England, Hunter/Central Coast and North Coast regions to participate in this study that will run in our school for four years. If you have a child in Years 7-10 you will shortly receive some information in the mail asking for your written consent for your child to participate in the student survey part of the study.

If you have any other questions about this program or about yours or your child’s participation in this study please contact Megan Freund the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program Manager on 02 4924 6374.

OXLEY SRC DISCO
WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE
7-10PM THEME: VIDEO CLIPS
TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY AND TUESDAY FOR $4
WEDNESDAY FOR $5
NO NOTE NO DISCO

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.

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.
Please take advantage of these Concession Cards and send your child to collect.

SCHOOL CAR PARKS
The use of car parks for the dropping off and picking up of students is prohibited. Students must be dropped off outside the school grounds. Short term medical exemptions are available by speaking with the Principal and gaining approval eg. Student with broken leg. Students must either park outside the grounds or within the senior student car park at the eastern end of Piper Street. Vehicles in school car parks are parked at the owner’s risk. Students are not to be in the senior car park without permission from the Deputy Principals unless “flexing off”.

23 May - Friday 6.45pm P & C Meeting
26 May - Thursday 11.35am Leaving school for Start of Athletics Carnival
27 May - Friday Athletics Carnival All Day
1 June - Wednesday 7.00-10.00pm School SRC Disco
13 June - Monday Public Holiday - Long Weekend
4-18 July - Monday-Monday School Holidays
18 July - Monday School Development Day - Student Free Day
19 July - Tuesday Students Return to School for Term 3
25 July - Monday 6.45pm P & C Meeting
27 July - Wednesday Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Selection Night
29-31 July - 1 August - Friday-Sunday Antique and Collectables Fair
1-12 August Y12 HSC Trials
10 August - Wednesday Year 8 into Year 9 Subject Selection Night