Issue 119 Term 1, Mar 5, 2021



NEW STAFFGet to know them...

SPORT Softball, Tennis and more **ART** drawing

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Photography: AJ Moran

CANVAS PARENT SIGN UP

This year we have moved to a new system where parent observer accounts have been created for all parents to observe their children's learning on Canvas. This system makes it easier for parents to start accessing Canvas which allows you to keep abreast of what your child is learning and in the Senior School, know key assessment dates or when academic prep is due.

What does this mean for existing users?

If you already have a Canvas parent account, nothing has changed. You still login with the same credentials. For parents who have been observing one or more children, and now have an additional child starting at Oxley, you will automatically be observing their classes and no longer have to 'pair' with your child's Canvas account.

I'm a new user, how do I get started?

If you have never had a Canvas account, you will have received an email in early February with details of your login, password and the link to the parent login page. Unfortunately, some email servers deemed this 'junk' so please check your spam folder. Included in the email were instructions for downloading the mobile app and logging in.

Where do I get more information?

Information on how to log in and how to use the Mobile apps can be found on our E-Learning page on the College's website https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/learning/e-learning/

We will also be running a parent canvas information session for Year 7 and new parents in the coming weeks, please email natacha. brochard@oxley.nsw.edu.au if you are interested in attending.

A reminder that it is compulsory for all students to change to Winter Uniform for the start of Term 2.

 The Oxley Shop is open Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-4.00pm. It will also be open during the upcoming holiday. No appointments necessary.

Since last Friday when I wrote to parents, it has been hard to miss the

the news cycles. What has been equally as concerning is the parallel story line of this same theme which has been playing prevalence of this problem highlights the societal issues we prevalence of this problem nignigrits the societal issues we face and the importance of addressing respectful relationships important conversations.

DW DOO DJHV DQG PRUH VSHFL; FDO ON hEIR ON here Wire some Gips, Kather than diving directly discussion is not enough. Just this morning, I joined a webinar into your stance or beliefs on a topic, start with your curiosity ZLWK 3ROLFH DOO HGXFDWLRQ VHFW Would it, and a topic start with your curiosity ZLWK 3ROLFH DOO HGXFDWLRQ VHFW Would it, and a topic start with your curiosity and it. The same is actions and build up from Priere. change. There is a strong commitment between all groups to come around the table to acknowledge the seriousness of the VLWXDWLRQ DQG WR ŴDNH GHFLVLYH The Association of Independent Schools of NSW have also set up a special unit to provide support to all schools so we can make a strategic evidence-based response. This conversation will be ongoing, and I am committed to partnering with parents to make our community a safe and equal place for everyone.

The google doc complied by Chanel Contos makes for harrowing and distressing reading and should shock and concern all of say with peers, as a starting point. Older children will need to X V D V D V R F L H W \ : K L O H W K H L Q L W L De addressing peer pressure and expectations as a random will need to a single sex schools in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, as others place. Discussions surrounding drugs and alcohol will need

joined the petition it showed that this is a wider spread issue which straddles all school sectors: single sex, coeducational, independent, and public, city and regional, making it something that we need to both acknowledge and question to whether we are doing enough with and for our young people. As I have said previously, having moved from a single gender environment to a co-educational school and seeing much more natural interactions and healthier relationships between our boys and girls, it would be easy to think our FRPPXQLW\ LV XQDäHFWHG

EXW WKLV ZRXOG

be naïve at best and ignorant at worst. From the events of the past fortnight, we all have a responsibility to do more!

At Oxley College we currently educate our young people about respectful relationships including consent in PDHPE from Year 7-10. Topics include #Respect- Healthy relationships in Year 7, Heads Up!- focus on mental health and Drug Use in Year 8, Teen Talk (relationships, social media etc) and Year 10 Safe Choices and Risky behaviours. Cornerstone also provides important opportunities for discussions around ethical and moral issues and these open discussions help our young people shape their character and moral compass. In 2021, we are initiating Friendology, a new programme in our Junior School based on healthy friendships from UR Strong to provide our students with the explicit skills and language to navigate their friendships and relationships in a respectful and positive manner.

As a school, we also bring in a range of leading speakers on many of these topics including Brent Sanders who speaks to older students and parents about issues of harassment, respect, and self-discipline. Next week, we have ySafe coming into talk to parents and students about Internet Safety and keeping our young people safe in an online environment. I encourage parents to read the Head of Senior School's article in this week's Pin Oak on ySafe. We are also investigating getting Maree Crabbe to come and speak to our parents and students about pornography and young people.

However, we cannot do this alone and we must work together with parents and families to educate our young people. Each
FKLOG LV GLÄHUHQW DQG DV SDUHQWV NQRZ WKHLU FKLOG WKH EHVW WKH\ can then determine when and how soon these conversations should take place.

Conversations between parents and their children are vital in helping young people to learn and grow but it can often be daunting as no one gave us a rule book on how to approach them. The advantage is that if it is just you and them, they have the opportunity to ask any questions and also to hold a

minimum of 50% of the conversation.

parents, it has been hard to miss and its its its almost like there is a language barrier between your at the book causally as concerning is the it is almost like there is a language barrier between you - at KLOH WKHVH FRQYHUVDWLRQV FDQ EH GLÅ the time when you most need to be having conversations. RXW LQ 3 DUOLDPHQW LQYROYLQJER Wije impertent that younden't let your (owthet) studgen lack (H prevalence of this problem highlights the societal issues we RIYHUQDFXODU AXHQF\WKZDUW\RX IURP

> Signal to them in advance that you would like to discuss something with them and give them a couple of time slots DVF KV FR R KV W WKRPE HEX W V LW KR 为U; 公是 WHH W/L P H conversations when you are facing in the same direction: in the car, walking the dog, doing the washing up. This makes it less confronting for all of you.

Making the conversation relevant and age appropriate is key to having a meaningful exchange. It may be that you are talking about respectful friendships and what it is acceptable to do and place. Discussions surrounding drugs and alcohol will need

to be included, along with how these can change an individual's behaviour and attitudes in certain settings. Pornography is also another topic which is so important to have conversations about especially given the statistics around the fact that our young people are often exposed (not always intentionally) from a young age and how this can set ng aphstics

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JUNIOR GALLERY



FEATURE

What have been your initial perceptions of Oxley? Exceptionally friendly and respectful community. Great leadership from the senior students. There's always something happening IRU HLWKHU VWXGHQWV VWDä RU SDUHQWV ZLWKLQ WKH FRPPXQLW\

 $: {\sf KHQ\ DQG\ KRZ\ GLG\ \backslash RX\ \ ;\ UVW\ EHFRPH\ LQYROYHG\ LQ\ HGXFDWLRQ"\ I\ had\ a\ very\ physical\ childhood\ growing\ up\ in\ the\ country\ and}$

What have been your Initial Perceptions of Oxley?

I think this place is fabulous. It's wonderful, the students are friendly, the

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LD OXLEYA

IZZIE GOODFELLOW Class of 2009

at Oxley?

I am the Founder and Director of bespoke social media agency, Oakwood Digital, which empowers regional small business owners to grow their dream businesses through the power of digital media. Prior to starting my own business, I was a high-level strategic communicator, in roles including Media Advisor to the Foreign Minister and Minister for Women, and Head of Communications for the British High Commission in Australia.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I have had some amazing roles and opportunities in my career, including leading on a visit from (now British Prime Minister) Boris Johnson, running the communications for the UK team for the Invictus Ğames and being part of the winning team for the bid of \$35billion worth of British-designed warships. But the biggest achievement would have to be building a successful business from scratch that supports regional businesses and their communities. Being able to use my experience and skills to have a positive impact throughout regional Australia is something I'm really proud of.

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

I never had such a clear direction at school. I was that student who tried everything, couldn't choose a clear path, and ended up having a wonderful time broadening
P\PLQGZLWKDVPDQ\GLÄHUHQWorthhate endugh to have the beschockey coach there
VWUXJJOHGWRFKRRVHP\¿QDO
was) making me fun that much how!

VH

Was going to be. And as it turns out - you don't have to be one

concepts, and be the better for it.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

I think the encouragement to try all the things is actually really special. There was no pigeon-holing - you could

be good at the academic side and perform in school
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SOD\ LQ WZR GLÄHUHQW VFKRRO EDQGV WRR

It felt like there were no limitations to what you could try and moreover, it was encouraged. I think that mentality really helps kids decide what kind of person they can be, outside of the standard academic excellence.

Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

I was fortunate to have some really wonderful teachers and sporting coaches who encouraged us all to be the very best versions of ourselves. But (former) Headmaster Grant Williamson was a really special human who taught me so much about what a good leader looks like. He was always there - he'd be in the audience of a school



SOD\ RQH HYHQLQJ DQG WKHUH morning sport the next. He was visible, approachable, proactive and wasn't afraid to shake things up if it was the right thing to do. He led by example, and we were so fortunate to experience that as a role model, even if we didn't really know it at the time.

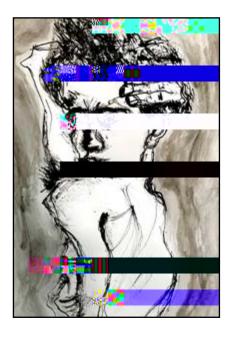
What would you say you miss most about being at school?

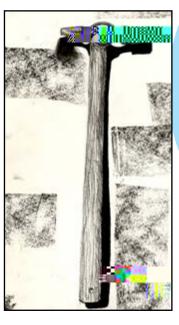
The freedom to enjoy life without the responsibilities that comes with adulthood. Being young and having the whole world in front of you is such a wonderful thing (although it doesn't feel like it at the time). We were all in such a hurry to get out and be the people we were going to be. But there is so much innocence, support and a surprising amount of freedom that comes from the structure of school. Also the forced physical education is actually marvellous - I wish I had Mrs A

to be. And as it turns out — you don't have to be one WKLQJ <RX GRQ¶W KDYH WR VWXG\KRQH ZRXQG\RXWKDQWRR\RXGHHUHQW LGHDV DQG VSHFL;F MRE <RX FDQ OHDUQ DQG HQMR\ GLÄHUHQW LGHDV DQG concepts, and be the better for it.

**Relax, my girl — you have so much time and so many wonderful things ahead of you. Also, be kind to your mather — she roally does know bot! mother – she really does know best!

WR V





Tina Macpherson is a former member of the Australian Women's Cricket team. Born in the inner west of Sydney in 1949 and growing up in Robertson, she had always dreamed of playing for Australia at a young age. Her dream came true in 1972, when on her debut for Australia, she broke a world record for becoming WKH ¿UVW ZRPDQ WR WDNH ¿YH ZLFNHW\$CRCCOOGHHEXDWQGQ(PDLQQQHDHDH DPD]LQJ International. After her successful career in the cricket industry, women's cricket. This is why it has been appropriate to name the recently launched Southern Highlands female cricket competition,

Wickets" fun days and being split into mixed teams, the Highlands District Cricket Association knew that it was time to create a cricket competition for just females of all ages.

On Wednesday 2 December of 2020, the advertisement for the inaugural women's T20 cricket competition in the Southern Highlands was found on all platforms of social media. The competition began as a weekly, Wednesday afternoon game with two teams of 10. All participants received an email with team lists and a team captain. The teams were Bowral, Robertson/ Burrawang, Moss Vale and Wingello. There were to be four

FRPSHWLWLRQ KDG QRZ EHFRPH WKH 37LQ We had six Oxley College girls involved in this competition; Beth Zupp (Yr 10), Emily Rodger (Yr 9), Georgie Morton (Yr 10), Chilli Sparke (Yr 8), Annalee Watson (Yr 9) and Charlotte Kent (Yr 8). batting averages in the competition. Beth, Chilli and Charlotte all VKH LV QRZ DåOLDWHG ZLWK WKH %UDGP, DQQQ VOKKHVGHXZPL VDNQGULHVDSWU RR REQWLLQQJJ VWDWLVW the best catches in the whole competition". The involvement was a success with the competition including WKH 37LQD 0DF3KHUVRQ &XS´ DURXQG ZRPHQ ¿YH WLPH ,QWHUQDWLR
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\$IWHU D IHZ \HDUV RI IHPDOH FULFNHWHUV SDUWLFLSDWLQJ LQ WKH 3:KDFN\

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rounds and a Grand Final. What was once a small friendly



Stage 2 Aboriginal Culture Incursion

On Monday 22 February, Year 3 and Year 4 were lucky enough to have Kadoo Tours visit our school to talk to us about Aboriginal culture. We heard about bush tucker, Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, Aboriginal history and Australian animals from our instructors, Grant and Kirra.

Grant told us about saltwater crocodiles and shared a story about how his Dad was nearly attacked by a 5m long crocodile when he was working in Queensland! He also showed us kangaroo claws, crocodile jaws and animal skulls. The best way to clean a skull is to leave it on a bull ants' nest because they will eat and eat until just the bone is left. Grant's story about the Yowie wasn't as scary as we thought it was going to be!

Kirra told us about how Aboriginal people used to eat emu eggs. They would use an emu-caller, which sounds like a female emu, to lure the male emu away from sitting on the nest, then steal only two of the four eggs that were left. This was so there would still be some baby emus born. Kirra also told us about how you would receive a kangaroo or possum skin cloak when you were a baby, and this would be added to over your lifetime. Totems and symbols would be burned into the cloak, like a nametag.

We were able to taste some bush tucker such as Pig Face and Bolwarra. We learned how important it is to not just go into the bush and eat something like bracken fern, because it could be poisonous. Most bush tucker plants are quite similar to other plants that are dangerous to eat.

We learned so much about Aboriginal culture from Grant and Kirra and hope that one day we might get to visit Kirra at the zoo, where she looks after the Australian marsupials.

By Eloise Richards, 4ANEWS