

# MOSAIC NEWS

## OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome to our school community to the 2008 school year.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I commence my principalship at Oak Flats High School. In my short time in the school I have been impressed by the students and the enthusiasm and commitment displayed by the staff.

The stability I bring to the position and the many positives that exist in our school community should ensure a great 2008.

Mr Isemonger, as relieving Principal, did an outstanding job and ensured a solid platform for the school community to build on and I would like to publically acknowledge his hard work.

Let us also welcome Year 7 to our school. They had a great first week in the school and quickly settled into the daily routine of a high school. Mr Mitchell, as Year 7 student adviser, did an excellent job and welcomes parents and carers to contact him or the Principal if you have any concerns about your child's transition to high school.

In relation to staffing we have had several changes for the start of the year. New staff to the school include Mr Copeland (Music), Ms Skendar (English), Ms Andrews (HSIE). Ms Herbert will be replacing Mrs Navin in Science for semester one. Ms Maling will be replacing Ms Lawson in Mathematics. Mr Trist will be the Careers Adviser for 2008. For Term I Mr Jacobs and Mrs Powell will fill the Deputy Principal's role. Mr McCarroll will continue to relieve as HT TAS and Mrs McCarroll will replace Mrs Watson as HT Secondary Studies.

Our Parents & Citizens meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Common Room, Administration Building. All parents are welcome. I am not asking that you take on an executive role but it is an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved in the school at whatever level they choose, from an executive member to a passive supporter. It also gives you an opportunity to find out about what is happening at school. All are most welcome. Hope to see many of you on a Tuesday evening.

The school community has agreed on a uniform code for the school. During the first week it was pleasing to see the students adopting this code and they looked great. I hope that this can be maintained as this is one of the key indicators of the pride that our students have in the school.

Finally, I would welcome contact from any parent or community member if they have concern about their child's progress or suggestions to make Oak Flats an even better school in 2008.

**Col Harris**  
Principal



### DEPUTIES' DIALOGUE

Welcome back to the new school year, and a particularly warm welcome to our incoming Year 7 students and their parents. I hope that you will find high school a challenging and rewarding experience.

It is particularly pleasing to see students projecting a positive school image through their compliance with uniform this year. Parents are asked to send a note to the school to explain non-compliance with uniform. Students out of uniform without a parental note will be managed through the discipline system.

Senior students who wish to drive to school need to complete and return the appropriate permission note which is available from the front office. Student drivers must provide their driver's licence number and registration number of the vehicle. Similarly, students who wish to be transported to and from school by a student driver must also complete and return the appropriate permission note also available at the front office. Students are reminded that once they have permission to drive to school they are to park on the gravelled area of the car park and that parking on the school grounds is done so at their own risk.

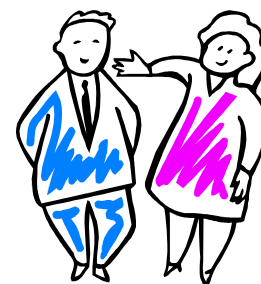
All senior students are to be present at roll call in the morning, regardless of whether they have a free period or not. This is to facilitate attendance recording. Students who wish to leave early when they have a free period at the end of the day must provide a written request from their parent or guardian to their supervising Deputy Principal. Their name will then be added to a register of senior students with school permission to leave early. Students are reminded that they must sign the early leavers' book at the front office. Students who have permission to leave but who do not sign out will be treated as truants.

Parents dropping off students in front of the school are asked to do so away from the main covered area as a safety measure.

If you have any queries regarding these procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We hope that 2008 will be productive and that students will strive to do the best that they can.

**K Powell, J Jacobs**  
Relieving Deputy Principals



## **SCIENCE SNIPPETS**

Welcome back to an exciting new year everyone! It's great to see a lot of familiar faces, albeit in some cases, in different (senior) uniforms, and a lot of new and enthusiastic Year 7 students.

I'm particularly impressed by the work ethic of the Year 11 students, with the study period on Friday seeing a full house in the Library – this all bodes well for you. Well done!

Within Science, we have had a bit of a reshuffle, with Mrs Navin deciding to take terms one and two off this year. Replacing her, we have the enthusiastic and wonderful Miss Nelson, who is relishing the challenges of both Year 11 and 12 Biology!

In Miss Nelson's place, we have the fantastic Miss Herbert, who has been working hard over the holidays to prepare for both junior Science classes, and taking the majority teaching load of our second Preliminary Biology class, with Mrs Guest. I'm sure with the combined experience and enthusiasm of these fantastic ladies, Biology will be an outstanding class to be a part of and I expect even greater results from the Biology HSC classes of 2008 and 2009 than we experienced last year.

### **Physics District class**

Last Thursday, we welcomed four enthusiastic students from Albion Park High School as part of our new 'District' physics class. They will be studying hard on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons with our students under the excellent guidance of Mr Davies, our Physics whizz. Thanks Mr Davies for the extra effort and dedication!

### **She's still an angel**

Some students have been a little confused when they looked at their timetable, to see what appears to be another new staff member in Science, a Mrs Dove. Well, you're sort of correct..... The fantastic Miss Moulds was married over the holidays to Mr Dove, in what was described as a breathtaking and beautiful ceremony. Congratulations to both of you!

### **Year 9 organisation**

Year 9 students will realise that this year, rotations occur in Science. In contrast to previous years where classes changed teacher and subject every five weeks, we are now changing teacher every term. This change is in response to the feedback we received from the recent curriculum review, noting that some students found the five week rotations unsettling and would like more opportunities for feedback from your teacher. It is proposed that Year 10 2009 will also adopt this format.

### **Year 10 organisation**

Again, following the curriculum review and data collected from School Certificate results, we have introduced a new topic called Science Literacy and Numeracy skills, which myself and Mr Douglas from the English Faculty are developing. Each class will experience this course, and hopefully we can build upon our great School Certificate results and convert more band 5 results into the coveted band 6.

Year 10 will this year, rotate every five weeks with the exception of 10.7, who will remain with me for the year.

### **Down the farm.....**

It was a busy holiday break on the farm, with four calves born and a lot of general maintenance carried out. Christmas Eve was particularly frantic as I had to call in Mr Daniels, our vet, to attend one of our new ewes (or should that be just a N'ewe?) who had gorged herself so much on the lush pasture of the veggie plot that she could barely walk!



Thanks to Helen and our very conscientious assistant, Jay Watson, for the excellent work you did over the break, looking over the stock and (with the additional help of Mr Purdon on weekends), feeding up.

### **Thanks Mr Walker**

I would like to publicly acknowledge the fantastic job Mr Walker did at the end of last term, relieving in my role whilst I undertook a shoulder reconstruction. It was great to be able to step aside for a while having the confidence that the faculty was in such very capable hands. Thank you, it was very much appreciated mate!

There is so much more I could cover in this first newsletter but being mindful of the needs of everyone else to have their say, I'll cut things short this time and finish by saying welcome back everyone and simply give us your best this year and help us make Oak Flats High great in 2008.

### **Mr Horsley**

#### **Head Teacher Science**

## **TAS**

Firstly, I would like to welcome all the fresh young faces, that make up Year 7 (this includes parents too!). During the Technology Mandatory course, all students will undertake a term study in Textiles, Food, Wood and Metal (but not necessarily in this order). The course fees for 2008 are \$45 and are payable at the front office. Your payment of this fee is most appreciated as it helps to purchase much needed equipment/consumables that will be used throughout the year.

Our Food Technology elective classes are now in full swing and I must take this opportunity to enforce our practical guidelines which apply to all students. Due to the ever increasing prices of food and related items, we have had to increase our Food Technology fees to \$45 in 2008. If you are experiencing financial hardship/pressure at this particular time, please speak to your classroom teacher about possibly paying your fees in installments. All students are also reminded that they are to come prepared to practical lessons with their t-towels and containers so they are not to miss out on experiencing the wonderful world that is cooking!!

Our Senior classes of Food Technology and Hospitality have returned from holidays ready to tackle new assessments and examinations. We wish them well and particularly encourage our Year 12 students to seek help from their teachers should they feel at any time "snowed under" in their workloads.

Have a great 2008!

### **Mrs Kim Massey**

#### **TAS Teacher**

## KOORI NEWS

Welcome to all of our new families and welcome back everyone else at OFHS in 2008.

Firstly Rochelle, our AEA has welcomed a new baby into her family. Jack Riley Koster was born on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Congrats from us all.

A special mention to Colin Studman. Colin is Vice President for 2008. Well deserved and Congratulations to you. You make us so proud.



To all students returning to your classes easily and without fuss, well done. KEEP IT UP. We are proud of our School Certificate and Higher School Certificate recipients for 2007. What a huge effort.

The touch day at the end of the year was a success. Thanks to the staff that made the effort to attend. It was REALLY appreciated. The score was even until almost the end and the staff got up 2-1. Thanks to the students who all displayed great sportsmanship in letting the staff win (joking) being a part of a great event, participating and playing well as a team. Special thanks to my helpers....

I will be working while Rochelle is off and if you call the school on 4256 1888 and I am not available, PLEASE leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can

I have worked with your children over the past two years as in class tutor and know most pretty well. I look forward to catching up with the Year 7 students and will take the opportunity this Friday to do so. We have a meeting planned where we will introduce those who do not know each other and let them know the things we do.

Please join us next Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at school for an assembly where we will acknowledge our past and look forward to a brighter future in Australia. We want to be a part of Australian History for our People as the Government acknowledges the wrong done and we want you to be part of it with us. The assembly will be held at 11.40am. Please invite any family and community members to come with you. It is important for you all to attend where you can.

Please call and let me know if you cannot get here, but want to come.

Of course this invitation is extended to all parents in our school community.

We will endeavour to report home with great things your kids are doing and know this will be a positive thing for staff and families. We are going to have a special place on the school website for our students. I will be sending our families newsletters on a regular basis.

I want you to feel free to come up for a cuppa and a chat at the school when I am here. My office is in the library. Just call in the morning first to make sure I am at work and not off in the community somewhere or playing with the grandkids.

**Talk again soon**

**Leanne**

## LIBRARY

I would like to welcome everyone back to Oak Flats High School in 2008, with a special welcome to our new students in Year 7 and other years. We are looking forward to an exciting year in the Library. Our recently updated audiovisual equipment is in full swing taping many programs from free-to-air TV, as well as programs from the AUSTAR for SCHOOLS package recently installed in the Library. This package includes The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, The Lifestyle Channel, National Geographic and many more.



Another recent innovation in the Library is the purchase of the web based resource "World Book Online". This online encyclopaedia includes the World Book Online Reference Centre and World Book for Kids. Students and teachers of Oak Flats High School will have access to this fantastic resource both from the school computers and from home internet connected computers. At school the log in ID is **mblib** and the password is **library**. At home students use **mblib** and password is **library**. Please encourage your children to use this resource. The information provided is up-to-date and has links to other valuable resources. It also gives hints on how to reference sources and plan research assignments, as well as providing access to an online dictionary and atlas.

It's great to see Year 7 students settling in well and beginning their library lessons. They are expected to have a library exercise book to use during these periods. In the first few lessons we will be orientating students on the layout of the library and introducing them to the various types of resources we have and how to find them. We have a fantastic collection of fiction and non-fiction resources and I am hoping Year 7 will be great borrowers. All students are encouraged to make suggestions of books for the library to purchase and we will try to accommodate them.

The library staff is looking forward to 2008 being a great year for our school community.

*"Knowledge is free at the library – just bring your own container"*

Unknown author

**Mrs Maria Bryant**

**Teacher Librarian**

### COMING EVENTS

#### **2008**

8 February - Playgroup Starts. Welcome Back

12 February - School Swimming Carnival at Oak Flats Pool

20 February - Immunisation - HepVI Girls Years 7-10  
- HepBI Year 7

27 February - South Coast Girls Football Trials

4 March - Year 7 Welcome BBQ for Parents/Carers & Students  
(6.00pm)

12 March - Whole School Photos

## Community News

### Central Illawarra Youth Services Inc

#### Youthlinx Program

Term 1 2008

Monday & Tuesday from 3 - 5pm @ Albion Park Rail Neighbourhood Association.

Monday & Wednesday from 3 - 5pm @ Albion Park Community Centre.

Ph: 42578080

Loads of activities to enjoy including cooking, sport, excursions, dancing, drama classes, art & craft and much more.



#### Youth Road Safety Program

Shellharbour City Council is hosting a **FREE PARENTS' WORKSHOP** on Tuesday 19 February 2008 at Council Chambers, Ground Level Function Room (opp. RTA Motor Registry) from 6 - 8 pm to help you with practical advice about:

- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the Learner Driver Log Book and
- Providing on-road driving practice

Booking are essential. Contact Jenny Davies 4221 6124.



## SPORTING CLUB REGISTRATION DAYS

### Oak Flats Junior Soccer Club

9th February @ Panorama Oval.

16th February @ Rebel Sports, Shellharbour Village (between 10am - 2pm)

Players must attend on the day.

All new registrations must provide ID.



### Shellharbour Junior Soccer Club

2nd, 9th & 16th February @ Barrack Heights Oval (behind Warilla High School) between 10am - 2pm.

Open to Boys & Girls - U6 to U18.

All new registrations must provide proof of age.

All enquiries to The Secretary - 0434 885 187

### Albion Park Oak Flats Junior Rugby League Football Club

9th February @ Rebel Sports, Shellharbour Village (10 - 3pm)

### Warilla—Lake South J & M.R.L.F.C

Friday 8th February (4 - 6pm) & Saturday 9th February (1 - 4pm)

@ The Field

EACH PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A PAIR OF SHORTS & SOCKS

All NEW Registrations NEED to provide: Medicare Card, Original Birth Certificate & 2 current Passport Size Photos.

Registration Fee is \$60.

Enquiries: Kathleen 0402 144 966.

