

TERM 4
Issue 2 2008
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MOSAIC NEWS

OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL

COMING EVENTS

31 October

Year 10 PASS Dragon Tag
Training Day

3 November

Year 10 Leavers TAFE talks

5 November

Defence Forces Talk

7 November

Year 10 PASS Dragon Tag
Day

10 November

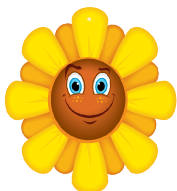
Year 10 Leavers talk with
TAFE Careers Counsellor

10 November—14

November
School Certificate Exams

12 November

University of Wollongong
Lecture Day—Extension
History Students



P & C MEETINGS

Our P & C Meetings are
held on the
**1st Tuesday of each
month**
at 7.30 pm in the
Common Room,
Administration Building.
Interactive Whiteboard
Demonstration this month



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 4 is well underway and students are hard at work in the classrooms. Our Year 10 students have just completed their Trial School Certificate exams and will sit their School Certificate tests in Week 5. The Year 11 students have commenced their HSC courses, with a number having assessment tasks scheduled for this term.

During 2008 the school has been implementing a "Positive Behaviour for Success" program. The program is based on our core values—Respect, Care and Responsibility and their application in specific situations such as school assemblies, the canteen and movement in the school corridors. An external team has evaluated the program and the school received a favourable report. Plans are underway to expand the program in 2009.

A number of staff have recently completed training in the use of the new interactive whiteboards that the school has purchased. Students should begin to see their use in a number of subject areas this term. At our next P&C meeting (4 November 2008) there will be a demonstration of the interactive whiteboards.

The school was represented by Melia Zur, Brittany Simpson, Blake Crandell, Paige Tighe, Sarah Hezemans and Andrew Dipgulia at the Beacon Fundraising evening at the Seaspray Function Centre and they all excelled as ambassadors for the school.

Col Harris
Principal

DEPUTIES' DIALOGUE

Term 4 is now well under way, with most students involved in exams and assessments that form the basis of their end-of-year reports. The HSC examination period is currently in progress with exams being held mostly in the school hall. Students are reminded to be considerate of students sitting HSC exams in the Hall by keeping away from the outside of this building during breaks.

Year 10 students will sit their School Certificate exams in week 5 of this term, commencing on Monday 10th November. Students will receive a package of information by early next week which includes a timetable that outlines the rules to be observed in these exams. Parents should read this information carefully with their child, and direct any questions about the process to the Year 10 Student Adviser, Mrs. Jennings.

Our students have been busy working out in the community recently, with Physical Activity and Sports Studies students running a tabloid sports carnival and conducting coaching clinics at Albion Park Rail and Oak Flats Public Schools. Well done to Ms Randall and Mr Trist for their hard work in organising these events. Our Year 12 Visual Arts students currently feature in the *Y-Curate* exhibition at the Wollongong City Gallery, where they have selected works from the gallery's collection to supplement a given art work and create a mini display of works around the theme of indigenous art. Congratulations to Mrs Kuit for the successful organization of this valuable experience for our students.

Our school was well represented at the Beacon Foundation No Dole evening at the Seaspray Function Centre on 28th October. Year 10 students made an excellent presentation about their experiences at the Beacon Polish Day earlier this year, and a number of our students had artworks selected as gifts to Beacon sponsors. Particular thanks to Mrs T. Cullen who organized the framing of artworks and Mr Trist who co-ordinated the students. Our school was very successfully showcased into our community at this event.

Next year we will be hosting 20 Japanese students from Furukawa Reimei Junior High School from the 19th of March until the 20th of March. We are currently looking for Billets for our international guests. If any Year 9, 10 or 11 students and their families would like to host these students please contact Mr Coleman.
Many Thanks

A. Coleman, J. Jacobs
Deputy Principals

TAS NEWS

Happy Birthday to all Year 9 Food Elective Students!! As part of their "Food for Special Occasions" unit, all students will be making their own birthday cake later this term—YUM! Make it a birthday to remember and start planning your cake now.



On the other side of the TAS world, Sean Cochran, Chadd Cowling, Shane Marsetti, Kyle Zimmermann are making terrific progress with their cabinet making skills in an excellent Year 10 Woodwork Class which Mr Kirk claims is the best class he has ever had.

Upstairs in the multimedia area, our students continue to impress with their excellent approach to work and their computer skills. Melia Zur and Brittany Simpson in particular show excellent all-round computing expertise while Ben Sellick displays great ability at video editing.

In Year 8 Technology, Ms O'Brien's Food Class has just submitted their self-designed board games with Nikki Pike, Renee McLachlan, Krystal Raisbeck, Amy Newton and Dana White-Healey among others, providing excellent efforts.

It is pleasing to see so many students producing fine work across the faculty.

Maths News

Yearly Examination Dates - Reminder

Year 9 – Friday 31st October

Year 8 – Friday 7th November

Year 7 – Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th November (depending on what class you are in).

Students would have received these dates and explicit instructions including the topics that are assessed in each examination from their class teachers.

We wish you all the best in these upcoming examinations and remind you of the need to be prepared for them. Revising your work regularly will allow you to achieve a great deal more success than studying only the night before.

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who achieved excellent results in their Preliminary examinations

Extension 1 Mathematics

Christopher LICHTENBERG, Daniel INVERNON and John KENTWELL

(Advanced) Mathematics

Christopher LICHTENBERG, Mathew WILTSHIRE and Daniel INVERNON

General Mathematics

Kayne RUSE, Nicole GUYER, Cara DUNCAN, Jordan LICKISS, Alexander CAMERON, Daniel WALSH, Nicolle FARRIMOND, Mathew BERWICK, Steven WHITE, Kendall VAUGHAN, William PARSONS, and Shelby LACEY

Illawarra Mercury IQ Section

In the past two years several students from OFHS have written brief book reviews which have been published in the Illawarra Mercury IQ section. The editor of this section sends me four or five newly-published books for students to read and then write a 150-word book review.

Any student who would like to preview the latest books, please see Mrs Hoole in the English Staffroom.

The books that are currently available are:

Step Up and Dance by Thalia Kalkipsakis

The Not Quite Perfect Boyfriend by Lili Wilkinson

Cruisin by Brian Caswell

The Glitch in Sleep by John Hulme and Michael Wexler

H.I.V.E Escape Velocity by Mark Walden

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Happy Reading

Mrs Hoole

HSIE News

Congratulations to Alyce Erikson, Chris Sale and Daniel Walsh for their excellent results in the final Preliminary Business Studies Examination last term. These hard working students gained first, second and third places respectively in the examination and unfortunately were not included in the list of merits mentioned in the last newsletter. Added to the outstanding examination results, Alyce and Daniel have also been nominated for a Principal's Award for their outstanding research assignments on local businesses. Well done to all those students.

Mrs Birchall (Business Studies)

Community Message

Mount Warrigal Nursing Home needs help from all the people out there who are handy with a sewing machine or needle and thread. Every year the management and staff put on a Christmas play for their residents and families. This year they need some simple capes for their performance. If anyone could spare a little time to sew a few capes, could you please contact Mrs Birchall (HSIE Faculty) at Oak Flats High School. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) News

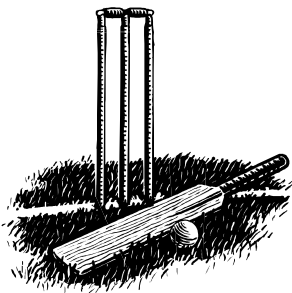
Supporting OFHS values of Respect, Care and Responsibility

The winners of our weekly merit token draw are:

1st	Jessica Mann	\$20 Stocklands Voucher
2nd	Kayleigh Grover	\$10 Canteen Voucher.

Congratulations to our winners!

Davidson Shield 2008—Open Boys Cricket



On Monday 20 October Oak Flats High School played Warilla High School in the third round of the 2008 Davidson Shield at Geoff Shaw Oval Oak Flats. Warilla was going to be tough to beat as they made the last 16 in the state in the 2007 competition. Warilla won the toss and elected to bat on a very good batting wicket.

Oak Flats bowled and fielded very well early to have two of the top order Warilla batsmen out. After four overs Warilla was 2-5. Good bowling and fielding restricted Warilla to 4-77 after 22 overs. However a couple of catches then went to ground and Warilla batted well to finish with 6-180 from their allotted 40 overs. Liam Mann bowled well to finish with 3-25 from his 8 overs, as did Sam Rogan 1-21 (8) and Chris Jarman 1-23 (8). Steven White also took a wicket for figures of 1-33 (6). There were a number of excellent catches taken by Brad Smith, Sam Rogan and John Tilden. Joel Hawke, Liam Day and Liam Kendrick also fielded well.

Oak Flats lost both opening batsmen in the first five overs to be 2-14. By drinks, after 20 overs, Oak Flats had progressed to 5-76. Chris Jarman batted very well for 43 and Brad Smith played some nice shots in his 10. Sam Rogan, who made 37, and James Knappett with 17 started a lower order fight back to take the score to 6-100.

Joel Hawke then combined with Sam Rogan to take Oak Flats within sight of victory at 6-137 after 32 overs. However, some good fast bowling from Warilla saw Oak Flats fall just short to be all out for 152.

Congratulations to the Year 11 students, Chris Jarman, Liam Mann, John Tilden and Sam Rogan who have played strongly for Oak Flats over the last three or four years.

Congratulations to all the players from both teams for playing the game in a fair and competitive spirit.

Mr D. Herbert—Open Boys Cricket Coach

Science Snippets

With the HSC now well and truly on, we are all anxiously waiting on the feedback from our students as to how they felt they went. The Biology paper this week seemed quite fair and by all reports students seemed quite happy with their preparation. Senior Science, Physics and Chemistry all happen next week, so it will be an anxious wait for all over the next few days.

Year 11 have started their HSC studies, with the Biology classes studying enzyme action and the Chemists delving into polymer chemistry and making ethanol by fermentation. Senior Science students will be looking at the chemicals we use in everyday life, and Physics students will be studying the physics involved in space exploration – yes, they are studying Rocket Science!

Year 10 are licking their wounds from the trials and are now studying hard for their final examination. Having read some of the trial exam responses, it is clear that there is a significant amount

of revision required now, particularly in the Year 9 subjects, to maximise the opportunity for good marks in the final external exam.

Year 9 have now completed their Yearly Examination, and Years 8 and 7 are gearing up for theirs in the coming weeks. It is important for parents and students to realise that now is the time more than ever, to put in that final big effort in what is for most, the largest test of the year.

Years 8 and 9 have the additional task this term to complete their student research projects. Please be advised that this is a compulsory part of your studies, and whilst not difficult, it does take some time to plan and perform your investigations.

Agriculture News

Several students attended the 'Cows Create Careers' excursion with Mr Trist and Mrs Dove last week and by all reports, a great day was had by all.

In the plots, students have planted seeds for the summer crops and in the paddocks, we eagerly await the calving season. The vines are now coming out of their winter shutdown and there appears to be some excellent budburst happening.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a winemaking friend of mine, Dr Bailey Carrodus, an extraordinarily generous man who established a leading winery in the Yarra Valley (Victoria). Dr Carrodus was most generous in sending us the cuttings for our vineyard and was most keen to see how the vines kicked off.

Dr Carrodus' life philosophy was 'Live as though you may die tomorrow and farm as though you will live forever'. I hope some of our Agriculture and Primary Industries' students take on this philosophy as they are fine ideals to live up to.

The final note I will add is that, despite all of our efforts, Basil the jungle python has yet to be returned. I only hope that the person(s) responsible develop some sense of conscience and morality and do the right thing. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for the students at our fine school. Your collective sense of respect, compassion and caring have made my loss much more bearable. Of the person(s), that I know were involved in this sorry affair know my patience and compassion has all but run out for you.

Mr Horsley

Junior Music Camp

During Week 1 of this term, the annual Junior Music Camp was held at Jamberoo Valley Lodge. At this camp, students from Years 6 - 9 across the Illawarra region were nominated for positions at the camp through a rigorous application process. The camp ran for four days and was a great experience for all involved. Over the four days, students worked with experienced staff to practise and refine their musical ability and finally showcased their talent at a Concert held at the Camp venue on the Thursday night. This year, five Oak Flats High School students were selected out of over 200 nominations for 130 positions at the camp.

I was very pleased to see our students gain so much music experience and enjoyment from their four days at camp. Their talents ranged from Singing through to Rock Band performances. They participated in a number of different groups throughout the week, including Vocals (Emma Jordan, Maddison Cunliffe - Yr. 7, Jordan Wieland - Yr. 8), Concert Band (Jakob Benko – Drums - Yr. 8), and Rock Band (Geordy Pullen – Electric Guitar - Yr. 9).

Each of our five students performed to their fullest ability in the showcase on Thursday night - our three singers who were in the Vocal ensemble, Geordy in 'The Worlds Largest Rock Band', Jakob with the very successful Concert Band and a special performance by Jordan Wieland of "Bridge over troubled Waters" as a featured soloist. Congratulations Jordan! On the night, three regional awards were given out to deserving students – one of which was presented to Jordan as the 'Rising Star' for 2008.

This year, Mr. Copeland again attended the camp as a Tutor and assisted in running the newly-formed "Camp Orchestra" which made its second appearance at the Showcase night this year. A wonderful time was had by each and every person involved over the 4 days and all are looking forward to the nominations for Camp 2009!

In addition to the success at Camp, Jordan Wieland has successfully made it through a number of rounds in the "Illawarra's Next Pop Star" competition to make it to the Finals held on the 8th November. Make sure you get to the Wollongong Mall Amphitheatre to support Jordan in his success!

P. Copeland.

English News

Mrs Johnson would like to extend a big CONGRATULATIONS to the following students in their various English courses. In the Year 11 Advanced English Preliminary Examination Chris Lichtenberg came first, Sarah Lyons came second and Bren Kentwell came third. Well done! **Overall** results for Year 11 Advanced English were, Serina Kane and Chris Lichtenberg equal first place and third place went to Daniel Walsh. Great work!

In the Year 11 Extension English Preliminary Examination Bren Kentwell came first, Chris Lichtenberg came second and Daniel Invernon came third. **Overall**, first place was shared by Daniel Invernon and Bren Kentwell and in third place was Alyce Erickson. These are fantastic results and clearly indicate the depth of ability that this talented group have.

Ms Harrison and Ms Meredith would also like to congratulate Year 8 and Year 11 students who went to see "Yibiyung" in Surry Hills last week. Their behaviour on the train was impeccable and in the theatre they conducted themselves with great maturity and correct theatre etiquette. It was a pleasure to accompany this group to Sydney- they were fantastic ambassadors for Oak Flats High School.

As Year 10 Year Advisor, Mrs Jennings would like to remind students that during their School Certificate Examinations they are

expected to behave appropriately or there will be serious repercussions. All equipment must be supplied by the students themselves and with regard to Mathematics, no equipment will be supplied by the school. These are external examinations with external supervisors.

Invasion of the Student Teachers

Oak Flats High School gives a very generous welcome to our University of Wollongong student teachers during their practicum at the school.

The school currently has seven student teachers with three in P.E., two in HSIE, and one in each of the Art and Science faculties respectively. The Diploma of Education students have a five-week block final practicum which will give them a realistic view of the teaching profession in a state comprehensive high school. We also have two students in the 'Bibs, Hats and Whistles' department currently in their third year of studies who are in the throes of completing their three-week block. It is great to have them on board this term and we hope their bright, enthusiastic and positive outlook has a tremendous influence on both students and the staff alike.

Best of luck 'Sirs and Madams' – don't forget the 'chalk & talk' philosophy!



J.Cramp, B.Day, M.Davis, S.Keyte, L.Walker, B.Serelak, Mr O'Neill (missing A. Bernthaler)

What a Day!

On Thursday 23rd October 8EA and 11E5 went to Sydney for an English excursion. We caught the train from Oak Flats to Wollongong at 8.09am and then caught another train from Wollongong to Sydney. When we got to Sydney we had lunch at Hungry Jacks and then we walked over to Belvoir Street Theatre in Surry Hills to watch a play called *Yibiyung*.

Yibiyung is an Australian play written by Dallas Winmar, from Western Australia. The play is based on Dallas' Grandmother's story. The first ten to fifteen minutes of the play was spoken in Noongar, a Western Australian Aboriginal language. *Yibiyung* is set in Western Australia, early on in the 20th Century. Yibiyung was a young Aboriginal girl whose parents died from diseases and was being taken care of by her Uncle. But when she was about eleven Yibiyung had to be separated from her Uncle. Yibiyung went through really tough times and this play shows what affects the European settlers had on the Aboriginal people.

After the play we walked back up to the train station and caught the train all the way back to Oak Flats. I think going on the train was fun because there were lots of things to look at and it was different to being on a bus. We got back to Oak Flats at about 4.30 pm. I had lots of fun on the excursion to Sydney and I would like to do it again soon.

By Milli Wheeler.