

# MOSAIC NEWS

## OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Only the third week of the term but plenty has been happening in the school.

Over 120 students received awards at the merit assembly in recognition of their hard work during Term 1. The assembly was excellent and the students behaved in a manner that brought credit to themselves and their families.

The school talent quest was held and a wealth of talent unearthed. Mr Keen did a great job "pulling" it all together and the student audience participation was enthusiastic.

Year 11 students participated in a three day program on the mandatory PD/Health unit - Crossroads. Accounts from the organising staff commended the students for their participation and maturity over the three days.

Students from Year 10 and 12 attended the local Careers Expo last Tuesday and gained a great deal of first hand knowledge about prospective careers.

Welcome to all the new students who have commenced study at the school this term. The size of the school is continuing to grow and early indications are of strong enrolments for next year.

#### **Sport Representatives**

Grade sport is about to commence and I would expect a high level of sportsmanship and respect from the wonderful students of Oak Flats High School.

**Col Harris**  
Principal



### DEPUTYS' DIALOGUE

Already this term is picking up speed as students have sat formal half-yearly exams in Year 10, with other years to follow in succeeding weeks. Staff are busy compiling assessments and preparing reports on individual students.

Year 10 students were commended for their behaviour at last week's Careers Expo at Unanderra. Our students gained valuable insights into the possibilities for their future at the Expo. This is important as Year 10 will shortly be making key decisions about whether to return to school next year (and a pattern of subject selections if they are), or to pursue other options for their future.

Some students continue to not comply with school uniform requirements. Parents are again asked to not allow their children to wear the patterned hooded jackets (called paddies). The school will consider "minding" these jackets for students who persist in wearing them.

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

Year 7 showed initiative by organizing a fundraiser for the people of Burma. The students organized and prepared a sausage sizzle. Well done Year 7, this is a very thoughtful gesture. It is great to see our students showing such care and respect for people less fortunate than themselves.

We hope to reinforce these values with an exciting new program that teachers are introducing this term. It is called **Positive Behaviour for Success (P.B.S.)**. The program involves teachers explicitly teaching the behaviours that they expect from the students. These behaviours are based on values that the school community nominated at our values forum in 2007. These values are **Respect, Responsibility and Care**. Teachers are going to positively reward students when they catch them displaying appropriate behaviours that reflect our values. The leader of our PBS team is Mr Duffy.

Term 2 has been an excellent term, with students and teachers settling into the rigours of learning and teaching.

**A Coleman & J Jacobs**  
Deputy Principals

### COMING EVENTS

#### **2008**

- 19 May Girls Hockey, Croome Road, Albion Park
- 23 May All School Swimming—Homebush
- 26-30 May Education Week
- 26-30 May VET Work Placements
- 27 May School Athletics Carnival (Week 5) @ King Memorial Oval
- 04 June Special Interest Day - Primary school visit
- 10 June Years 11 & 12 — Parent Teacher Interviews
- 17 June CAPA - Performance Night
- 1 July Years 7-10 — Parent Teacher Interviews

## **ENGLISH FACULTY**

The days and weeks feel like they're flying by and we find ourselves already in Week 3.

As parents would be aware, Year 7 are working on an Area of Study this term and each of the texts to be studied have a cultural/ environmental theme. They have been analysing novels such as "Blueback" and "Storm Boy", films such as "Whale Rider" and "A Shark's Tale" as well as Drama scripts such as "Preston Beach" and "Honeyspot". They will also in the coming weeks be researching in the library for an assignment on various endangered species and our new Librarian Mrs McDonald will be also teaching them skills and texts relating to this topic.

As a faculty, we decided to put all of these skills and knowledge to some use and with specific lessons aimed at understanding and empathizing with the people of Burma (MYANMAR) we came up with the idea of a fundraiser to try and assist in any way we could, with supporting the victims of the disastrous cyclone Nagris that has killed thousands and made millions of people homeless in this poor country.

Year 7 students have been extremely supportive of this idea and some have even addressed the school population at assemblies to inform them of this disaster and to encourage them to support our fundraising venture of a sausage sizzle which was on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

We would like to sincerely thank in advance, all of those students who have made contributions to this cause, the senior executive for their support of our idea, Mrs Crossingham in the canteen for her input and all of those staff and students who have bought a sausage and contributed firstly, to an awareness of the plight that some people find themselves, in our world and secondly by actively making a contribution, however small, to CARE AUSTRALIA - "Myanmar Emergency", assisting the people of Burma in their time of need. It reflects our attitudes and values as Australians and our willingness to help those less fortunate than ourselves and goes a long way to show the local community that staff and students of Oak Flats High care about what is happening in our world.

### **A BIG THANK YOU FROM US!!**

Some students to be congratulated for their outstanding class work recently are Shaun Wear of 7J for his acrostic poem about whales, Matt Landon and Giles Clark of Year 12 for excellent results in their half yearly exams for Standard English, Shelby Lacey, Daniel Invernon and John Kentwell in Year 11 Advanced English exams, Jacinta Landon and Matthew Berwick for fantastic results in Year 11 Standard English exams and Cherrie Gooden, Larissa Brown and Ivonne Lichtenberg for outstanding results in Advanced Year 12 English results .

NAPLAN testing has been conducted this week for students in Year 7 and 9. For those of you who don't know what this is, it stands for National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy and all students across Australia have sat these tests and they will give insightful information on the skills that students in our country have or are lacking.

Thank you to all of those students who were inconvenienced with class changes in the English block for your patience and consideration whilst these tests were on.

## **Whale Rider**

Warm blooded whales

Hungry mammals

Aquatic

Live in pods

Enormous

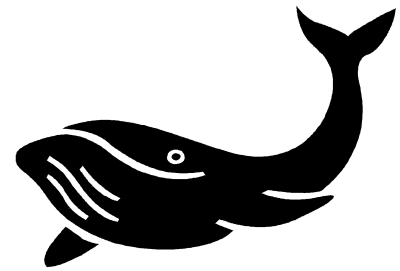
Reachable

Intelligent creatures

Deadly creatures

Endangered whales

Right whales are the biggest creatures.



*By Shaun Wear*

## **KOORI NEWS**

This is the best week for us.

Our submission for our own homework centre has just been approved.

Our In class Tutor funding has come through.

We have six Koori Students going through to the district Cross Country.

We have some great results in sport with Josh McKay making it through to the Tongarra team in touch, and Sam Cunningham representing the area in Soccer.

Our kids are trying hard in class and getting some great results in tests.

Keep up the work EVERY DAY AND IN EVERY SUBJECT.

Please remember to look out for a letter coming to you soon regarding the homework centre.

Call me if there are things I can help with

**Leanne 42561888**

## **HSIE FACULTY**

Congratulations to all the Year 10 students on the completion of Half-yearly examinations for History and Geography. Outstanding results will be published in our next School Newsletter. For the remainder of this term Year 10 HSIE classes will rotate between History and Geography in four- week blocks.

Year 9 HSIE classes have begun work on their final topics for this semester. At the end of this term all classes switch from their current subject to either History or Geography. Similarly, Years 7 and 8 finish their work in their current subjects, (History for Year 7 and Geography for Year 8), and change over to History or Geography. This is a very important time for all students. It is a period of consolidation and preparation for final Half-yearly assessments.

Our VET students will be participating in their work placements next week and we look forward to a rewarding and engaging experience for all students. Look for the reports in the next newsletter. Currently, some students are excelling at their subjects, most noticeably, Cassandra Gorwood and Colin Studman in Year 12 Retail, Nicolle Farrimond, Anthony Ferri and Alexandra Dickens in Year 11 Retail and Serina Kane, Rachel Mann and Megan Bateman in Year 11 Business Services.

The Faculty takes this opportunity to welcome Ms Jessica Hurt to our teaching ranks. Ms Hurt is a teacher who has experience in teaching in other State systems and we are pleased to have her in our department for the remainder of the year.

### **Year 11 - Modern History**

Jocelyn Bell, Conor Bradwell, Hayley Carr, Andrew Clay, Daniel Invernon, Shelby Lacey, Sam Tooke and Daniel Walsh achieved excellent Half-Yearly Exam results and continue to display a conscientious attitude towards their senior studies.

Other Year 11 students are working extremely hard in class and producing excellent work include Stephen Willis, Nicole Guyer and Liam Mann.

### **Year 12 - Modern History**

Lauren Bloemer, Jason Whitby, Laura Burton achieved excellent Half-yearly exam results.

Brendan Casey, David Kennedy, Natalie Beer-Simpson, Cassandra Gavin and Adriana Kocoska are hard-working in class and are working very hard towards their HSC.



## **SCIENCE FACULTY**

It's been an extremely busy start to this term, with half yearly exams to study for, and reports to write. The Year 7 excursion to the zoo is ever looming (week 6), and so is the Rio Tinto Science Competition!

As a faculty, we have been working extremely hard, upskilling ourselves in the use of all manner of technology, and I can see the rewards of this very clearly in some lessons, particularly with the use of data projectors. I'd like to publicly thank everyone on our staff for giving up the hours after school to enable us to add more variety to our learning activities.

In the Ag plots, the vines are shutting down for the winter, radishes and spinach and carrots are coming into season, in fact, Mrs Dove's Year 9 class have noticed the taste difference between shop bought carrots and those pulled fresh from the ground – they do taste better though guys if you actually wash them before munching them!

We have a fresh batch of new chickens and several students have played adoptive parents for a short time. Please be careful everyone when stepping around the enclosure though, we don't want any premature chicken patty cakes!

Now the dust has settled from the senior exam week and I begin to read report comments, I can say that I am quite pleased with results, but there still appears to be a few students who need to put their studies 'up a gear' as you prepare for the final exams. Perhaps the most common comment made was that students need to practice exam style questions more, to develop skills in addressing what the question is asking, not just simply reproducing what you know.

I know things can appear difficult at times, but just remember that success comes with persistence and practice, it takes far less inspiration than perspiration.

**Head Teacher Science**  
**Mr Horsley**

## **LIBRARY**

The library seems to be off to a good start for the new term. Each day seems to be getting busier and busier with a whole variety of activities.

The Chess players face their first challenge this term on Friday when they play the Warilla High School team in the library.

I am attempting to promote the Premiers' Reading Challenge. The response is encouraging with students showing interest and reading the required books. A special place has been allocated in the library for those interested.

I will take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the staff and students of this school who have made me feel so welcome to Oak Flats High School.

**Mary McDonald**  
**Librarian**

## **SPORT**

### **Touch Football Report**

Friday, Week 1 saw 4 teams, 2 boys & 2 girls from years 10-12 compete in the Southern Illawarra Zone Trials at Albion Oval. Oak Flats High was the only School to enter four enthusiastic & highly skilled teams on the day. The teams were managed by Ms Randall, Mr O'Neill & Mrs McKay who also provided valuable support. The day saw a number of positive displays including the Boys 'B' team which narrowly missed the finals going down to Illawarra Sports 5-2 in the Final Preliminary game. Best on ground (BOG) included; Brady Egleton, Daniel Smith, Kyle Zimmerman & Rory Mulligan.

At the end of the gala day, a Representative team for the Southern Illawarra Zone was announced with Nathan Justice (Year 11) and Josh McKay (Year 10) both successful in winning places in the side which played last week at Thomas Dalton Park, Towradgi.

Congratulations to all involved in what was a terrific day of touch football. Special mention goes to Allannah Caskey who scored a sensational try in her team's draw with Illawarra Senior College.

**D O'Neill**



Zone Cross Country carnival will be held on Friday 16th May at West Dapto (Kembla Joggers Club).

Good luck to all our representatives.



The annual School Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 27th May (week 5) at King Memorial Oval.



## **UP COMING EVENTS**

- \* Boys & Girls Hockey knockouts
- \* Boys & Girls Netball Gala days
- \* Zone Tennis Gala day

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Central Illawarra Youth Services Inc**

#### **Youthlinx Program**



Term 2 2008 Program—**Albion Park Rail**  
@ Albion Park Rail Neighbourhood Association on  
Monday and Tuesday 3.00 to 5.00pm

Term 2 2008 Program—**Albion Park**  
@ Albion Park Neighbourhood Centre on  
Monday and Wednesday 3.00 to 5.00pm.



Phone: 42578080.

Loads of activities to enjoy including craft, cooking, excursions, sport, painting.

### **NSW Fire Brigades Open Day 2008**

The **NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB)** will hold its annual **Open Day on Sunday June 01st 2008**, providing an ideal opportunity for families to talk to their local fire fighters about fire safety, including information on smoke alarms and preparing a home escape plan.

**Albion Park Rail Fire Station** (180 Princes Hwy - opposite Wilson's Bikes) will be open from 10am to 2pm on the day and everyone is welcome. Meet your local fire fighters and find out about the work they do.

Climb onto fire engines, tour the station and check out the equipment! There will also be a **free** sausage sizzle on the day!

There is plenty of parking behind Wilson's Bikes.

