



COMING EVENTS

19/9/18 - 28/9/18

Year 11 Exams

27/9/18

Year 12 Graduation

28/9/18

Merit Assembly
Year 12 Picnic Day
Colour Run
Last day Term 3

15/10/18

First day Term 4

P & C

MEETINGS

Our P & C Meetings are held on the **3rd & 7th Tuesday** of each Term at **6.30 pm** in the **Common Room, Administration Building.**

We look forward to seeing you.

MOSAIC NEWS

OAK FLATS HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that Term 3 is over, but what a great term it's been!

Congratulations to Year 12 who graduate from high school on Thursday night. Our staff have enjoyed watching them grow into fine young adults and are incredibly proud of their achievements. We wish them the best of luck for the HSC examinations, and a lifetime of happiness and success.

A reminder that we will have teachers at school on Wednesday in both weeks of the holidays to assist Year 12 students to study for their HSC. The school will be open from 9am-2pm on those days, and lunch will be provided.

On Tuesday night this week our staff met to review the feedback we received from focus groups of parents from our school and our partner primary schools. We're using this feedback to look at how we can better communicate with our school community, and ensure we're meeting your expectations as your local community high school. I'll keep you updated on this work as it progresses.

A team of staff recently met with our school uniform providers, Lowes, to discuss options for the future. Feedback from students has been that they like the shorts and polo tops, but would like a different style of shorts for girls and boys to ensure they are a better fit. We're also exploring options for a new jumper and jacket, and a more formal option of a button down shirt/blouse and a dress or skirt. We hope that by providing a wide range of uniform options all students will have something they can feel comfortable in and proud to wear. We hope to get some samples next term and will let students and parents know when they're available for feedback.

continued on next page...



Closing the Gap, Working Together for a Brighter Future

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions and dreams of Aboriginal Australia .

Principal's Message continued

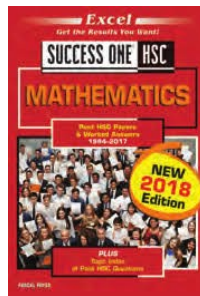
We will end the term tomorrow with our Merit Assembly. This is always a wonderful celebration of our students who are making their best effort in class and progressing in their learning. I look forward to seeing lots of parents and family members there to celebrate with us.

We are farewelling a few of our teachers at the end of this term. Mrs Fellows has been appointed as Deputy Principal of Wagga Wagga High School, Mr Harrison has received a permanent teaching appointment to Illawarra Sports High School, and Mr Brain is moving interstate. I thank them for their contributions to our school and wish them all the best for a wonderful career.

Two of our administration staff are also retiring. We wish Mrs Marks and Mrs Bill a long, happy and healthy retirement, and thank them for their service to Oak Flats High School.

Mr Jenkins will take over from Mrs Fellows as Deputy Principal for Year 7 and Mr Pack will take on Mr Harrison's learning support role. We welcome Miss McCarthy who will replace Mr Brain in PDHPE.

I wish everyone a happy, relaxing and safe holiday, and we look forward to seeing our students again on Monday 15 October.



HSC HUB

OFHS Information Centre
Wednesdays during holidays

October 3 and October 10

10 am – 2 pm

Teachers – Tutors - Pizza

Partners in Learning - Parent Feedback Survey

This term, our school is participating in the Partners in Learning Parent Survey. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement in learning at school.

The site for the Partners in Learning parent survey is:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/rkkck>

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school.

The survey entirely voluntary, will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

and **NO LOGIN** is required.

Thank you.

Southern Stars

Oak Flats High School was once again represented at this year's Southern Stars event titled 'Iconic'. It was a fun-filled week celebrating the wonderful learning and talent within the Creative and Performing Arts that takes place in schools across the region and the state. Our Dance Ensemble, made up of 20 talented dancers, were a part of the 'Fashion' segment and stood out in their 80s themed costumes, featuring the iconic Choose Life t-shirts. They were also part of the tremendous opening and closing numbers along with all of the other 3000 students from across the region and the state. In addition to our Dance Ensemble, we had 3 students represent Oak Flats High School in other groups. Year 9 Graduate of the CAPA Class program, **Ashleigh Chant**, was a member of the Featured Vocal Ensemble, **Charlotte Cuzen** (Year 8 CAPA Class) was a member of the Southern Stars Performing Company (Dance) and **Olivia Talbott** (Year 8 CAPA Class) was a member of the Combined Aboriginal Dance Ensemble. These 3 girls, along with our Dance Ensemble, represented our School with professionalism and excellence and are to be commended for their outstanding contribution to Southern Stars 2018 – Iconic.



Mr. Jenkins

CAPA Head Teacher



Photo courtesy of MSP Photography. Photos for sale. See Page 11 for details.

Southern Stars continued ...



These very talented OFHS students featured prominently in Southern Stars. From left, Olivia Talbott, who featured in the Aboriginal Dance Ensemble, Charlotte Cuzen, who featured in Dance, and Ashleigh Chant who was a featured vocalist.

Student Spotlight

Molly Campbell - Year 7 SRC representative

Molly is one of our Year 7 representatives on the SRC (Student Representative Council). Molly is excited about being a member of the SRC and says, "It's a different experience. You get to see the business side of the school. For example, we get to see what needs doing around the school, and we get to hear what the students like and don't like." Molly has represented the school at functions such as the ANZAC service, the SRC conference and regularly attends SRC meetings with the Principal, which Molly says are particularly enjoyable because "we get chocolate cake!" Molly says, "It helps build my confidence and I get to speak for the school, which is lots of fun!"



Snow Trip

Thirty-one students and three teachers were lucky enough to experience the breathtaking wonder of the Australian Alps during the annual Oak Flats Snow Trip during Week 4 of this term. The students, most of whom had never seen snow before, were treated to three excellent days of skiing and snowboarding. In return for these great conditions, every single one of the students were on their very best behaviour.



It was a chilly Tuesday evening when the students climbed aboard the bus at midnight to start the seven-hour journey to the mountains. The trip was fairly uneventful, however, everyone was ready to get out at Jindabyne to have a breakfast at the bakery. From there it was a short trip to Bullock's Flat and the Ski Tube to start shreddin'.



Conditions on the Wednesday morning could not have been better. There was a solid cover of fresh, dry snow and beautiful blue skies. For first timers like Teagan and Olivia Berry and Joel Alcock, conditions could not have been much better. Everybody took part in their lessons and for two hours new skills were learnt, or for seasoned boarders like Miles Dent skills already mastered were further developed. Unfortunately, a cold front blew in some clouds and the wind strengthened as the day progressed. This brought some fresh snow, another new experience for our ski team. Despite the less than perfect conditions, students such as Isaac Fitzgerald, Aylin Erciftci and Kobi

Squires stayed out there and had a great time.

We all got back on the bus late in the afternoon and headed back to The Station Resort for the night. Everyone was worn out and the teachers had no trouble with a nine o'clock lights out call as all the students were grateful to have their heads on the pillow.

As we stepped out onto the snow at Blue Cow on Thursday morning we were greeted by fresh snow, beautiful blue skies and virtually no wind; perfect conditions for tearing up the mountain. Snowboarders like Chloe Rogers, Kaycee Robinson and Callum Friend relished in the delightful conditions. They had their lesson before heading out to start carving and shredding. First timers like Hunter Debnam, Kym McGregor and Colby Butfield took to the slope with purpose, determined to get to the bottom without falling over...too many times. Iestyn James, a highly accomplished skier took off with Mr Wishart to Mt Perisher, I do believe that Iestyn taught Wishy a trick or two...



Snow Trip continued..

Two of our group went a little too hard and unfortunately ended up in the first aid at Blue Cow. Brooke Leighton was riding beautifully before she took a tumble on the chairlift and Darcy Singer, full of confidence after his lessons tried to get some air before hitting the snow and breaking his arm. The afternoon that followed allowed all the students to practise their turns and get down the mountain without falling. The beautiful conditions meant that riders such as Stacey Hilton, Amelia Cuzen and Rachel Bryant were really able to get confidence in their abilities and make the most of the conditions.

The group of Year 10 boys that may have been a little tentative on the first few runs were really getting going. Zac Krizek, Marcus Latinovich, Joel Stevens, Eric Abela, Tye Brown and newcomer to our school, Deklyn Haskell, all showed natural talent taking on both Blue Cow and Perisher Valley. The ever reliable James Salmond in Year 11 also took to the slopes with new found confidence, getting over to Mt P and ripping. Others, however, like Sophie Baldwin preferred to simply enjoy the beauty that can be found in the mountains at this time of year...making snowmen and snow angels!



Friday saw our last day on the slopes and lucky for us we were greeted with excellent conditions once again. The skies were clear, there was little wind and plenty of snow. The Year 9 ladies, Emma Hay, Ashley McLaughlin and Katie Meijer made the most of their last day opportunities. Always smiling, these young ladies were great company and certainly made the most of their time. Just as we were getting ready to head back down to Bullock's Flat for the last time, Rachel Watman came a cropper on the slopes and was taken out by a run-away skier. She had been getting down the mountain confidently until this happened, luckily for Rachel there was no serious damage.

We all piled back onto the bus, a whole lot quieter than three days earlier. After a brief stop in Jindabyne for a quick pie and drink we were on our way back to Oak. Dinner in Goulburn where we shared stories from the last few days. It was amazing how fast the time went...

The students were beautifully behaved on the excursion. They were ready when they had to be and they listened to and followed all the teachers' instructions. The Oak Flats Snow Trip is one of those school experiences that last a lifetime. The group of students that we took this year certainly made some memories that will stay with them forever.

A special thank you to the teachers that went; Mrs Creighton, Mr Steel and HUGE thank you to Mr Wishart for doing all the organisation. Make sure you start planning ready for the 2019 trip...



Knitting at OFHS

Oak Flats High School staff, students and school community have been busy knitting jumpers for lambs affected by the drought and are displayed here at the staff morning tea.

Here are some of the more than 70 jumpers completed... and a message from Mrs. Jennings:

“Thank you all for your wonderful contributions, and to Nettie and Jan for coming along this morning, and keep knitting!”

Pictured at our morning tea are Nettie, Mrs. Jennings, Jan and Oak Flats High School leaders Tayla Davis and Harry Cooper.



Oak Flats High School is offering **knitting lessons** at the school every **Monday afternoon** starting in Term 4, on Monday, the 15th of October, from 3:45 – 4:45 in room D12.

What to bring: 8 ply wool and size 8 (4 mm) knitting needles

Please call the school and ask to speak to me or leave a message at the front office if you have any questions, and I very much look forward to seeing you on the first Monday of Term 4,

Mrs. L. Jennings



First Monday....



After a month....



If you are really keen...

Jamberoo - Health and Wellbeing Program

Enrichment Excursions

Once again, during Week 10, all Jamberoo students will be invited to participate in an outing to Flip Out to celebrate their participation in the Health and Wellbeing Program. These excursions provide valuable opportunities for students to get active and socialise with peers in a supported and fun setting.



Happiness Challenge

Term 4 will focus on Mental Wellbeing strategies to promote resilience through the Happiness Challenge. This will see students participate in 15 minutes of resilience building activities each day. The challenges will be supported by lunch time activities to promote wellbeing and some special enrichment activities by outside agencies.



Mental illness affects 1 in 4 Australians aged 16-24. One in three young Australians also lives with high levels of stress. In the Jamberoo Centre we want to be proactive in helping our students manage their mental wellbeing so that they can reach for the stars. Developing healthy physical activity, nutritional, social and mental wellbeing habits are crucial in teenage years to ensure our children are set up to succeed in life after school.

The Jamberoo Centre students and staff are once again participating in a Health and Wellbeing Program with aims to provide opportunities for growth in our physical, social and mental wellbeing. These are scientifically proven as protective factors for positive mental health.

Teacher Spotlight

Greg Bennett - TAS Faculty

Mr. Bennett is a TAS (Technology and Applied Sciences) teacher at Oak Flats High School, and is in his fourth year at the school. Mr. Bennett talks about how he came into teaching and why he enjoys his work.

Mr. Bennett attended Shellharbour Public School and Kiama High School, and says, "At school I was always interested in making things, so when I left school as a 15 year old, it was to become an apprentice carpenter." While completing the apprenticeship, Mr. Bennett also attended

TAFE, where he enrolled in the Building Foreman/Clerk of Works and Civil Engineering courses. Mr. Bennett explains, "After completing my apprenticeship, I was retrenched and worked as a carpenter for six months, and I also drove concrete trucks for Cleary Brothers." While doing this work, Mr. Bennett was approached by the Engineering Manager to work as a surveyor's assistant. "I worked at that job for a while, then I worked in the office, drafting, and on minor projects as a manager. However, I didn't like working indoors, preferring to work outdoors, even though I enjoyed the challenge of using the skills I learned in my past TAFE courses." As a result, Mr. Bennett was given a company car and a labourer as his assistant, and set about learning the practical side of civil engineering.

After working at the company for twenty years, and working his way up to being a site supervisor, Mr. Bennett was ready for a change. "I applied and got a job with Hatch Engineering at Port Kembla supervising contractors, after which I worked for another local company doing similar work. However, by this time I was really ready for a complete change, and as I had enjoyed training young people, I thought about becoming a teacher."

Mr. Bennett completed a Bachelor of Education degree and was posted to Port Hacking High School, where he remained for seven years. "I was then transferred to Oak Flats High School and I have been here ever since. I love teaching and know I have made the right decision." Mr. Bennett adds, "It's the 'light globe' moments that mean the most to me as a teacher, when I see that the students are learning skills, and I love it when my students get apprenticeships." Mr. Bennett enjoys speaking to ex-students and says, "I enjoy the contact with students after they leave school, when they stop you in the street and ask how you are, and tell you about their jobs. It is very satisfying to see them move on. I couldn't see myself changing careers again."



UOW Early Entry

Well done to the 22 Year 12 students who submitted Early Admission applications for the University of Wollongong in recent weeks. I have heard that a number of students have already received invitations for an interview and some even have received two! Good luck with your interviews!



UAC APPLICATIONS

Year 12 students who intend on studying at university in 2019 are reminded to make their UAC applications before Friday, September 28, as administration costs rise from \$70 to \$200.

TRANSITION TO WORK

Year 12 students considering transitioning straight into employment should be aware that many apprenticeships and traineeships commencing in 2019 are being advertised now. Students should be proactively scanning the Oak Flats High Schools Facebook page where I post any vacancies that I hear



POSITIONS VACANT

Over the coming weeks most employers and businesses will be hiring for the summer and Christmas period. If you are looking to pick up part-time or casual employment.....Now is the time to start looking in shop window fronts and checking websites like Indeed and Seek. Again, also regularly check Oak Flats High Schools Facebook page for recently advertised jobs.

ILLAWARRA TRADES ROAD SHOW

Last Tuesday, 21 students from Year 9 and Year 10 attended the annual Trades Road Show, held at Five Islands Secondary College. There were certainly many very engaged students at the event, and all who attended were a credit to Oak Flats High School! Taking up opportunities to attend events like this is a great starting point for exploring your career options - well done!





BALARANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

Invites you to attend it's

**50TH
ANNIVERSARY
1968 - 2018**

Friday 14th September 2018

Special assembly 2pm

Open display and afternoon tea from 3pm



FROM OUR COMMUNITY...

Here are links to organisations within our community which would like to advertise services and current events:

- Souvenir photos of Southern Stars are available and will be 8"x12" prints with templated border displaying the Southern Stars Logo, the school name and year.

They cost \$15 each and \$3 from every sale goes back to the Southern Stars committee to assist with funding future shows.

Parents and interested parties should contact our office on **42613009** to **order** and pay by **credit card**.
If you still wish to collect any envelopes that were distributed, can you please give us a call to arrange collection.

Marissa Nolan

Business Owner

MSP Photography Illawarra

- Lake Illawarra Little Athletics Centre is about to commence our 47th Season of Athletics.
See website below for registration information for the **2018 – 2019** season.

www.lilac.net.au

- Netball – Shellharbour City Council. Registration and information about Ladies and Junior competitions 2018 – 2019.

<http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/Play/Sport-and-Recreation/City-Stadium/Netball>

- Aboriginal Go4Fun program—Free family focused program for children aged 7 - 13 years.

<https://go4fun.com.au/where>

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL...

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