Student Focus

Year 11 student, Chloe Woollard is one of the school’s consistently high achieving students. She is studying Hospitality, Advanced English and Primary Industries. Her favourite subject is Hospitality and she is working towards a career in that field.

Chloe thinks the best thing about attending Oberon High is her friends. She also believes that the small number of students results in smaller classes which allows the teachers to focus more on each student.

Chloe is one of the first students to undertake study under the senior college model and, while appreciating the opportunities of the model, sometimes finds that three double periods each day can be tiring.

On leaving school Chloe will either go to university, attend TAFE or maybe have a gap year to raise funds for further study.

Her ultimate goal is to become a chef and work in a restaurant or cafe, perhaps one day owning the business. She enjoys all sorts of cooking and is particularly interested in preparing modern cuisine.

When cooking Chloe often uses a recipe as a general guide and then uses her instinct and experience to modify it - with tasty results. Recently Chloe supplied the local florist with cupcakes for Valentines Day.

Chloe’s diligent and dedicated approach to her studies should reap her great success in the future.
The principal matters

Last Tuesday night thirteen dedicated and very talented students impressed a good crowd with some outstanding drama performances as part of our annual school drama night. This year the performance was called *Variety in (free)Fall* and was a collection of drama performances from students in Year 8 to Year 12. Miss Holly McTrustry has been working extremely hard for many weeks preparing the students with rehearsals and setting up the show. I would like to congratulate Miss McTrustry for her outstanding commitment to these talented students.

Productions like this one could not be possible without support from parents, carers and other teachers. Again I was impressed with the large number of teachers who remained late at school to support the students in this event. Well done to all students and staff. All donations collected on the evening will go directly into purchasing further equipment for the drama students. Thanks to all the community for their support of the show this year and also to the P&c for supplying popcorn and drinks on the night. Special thanks must go to the wonderful support provided to Miss McTrustry by Ms Amber Hibbert and Mrs Jenny Porter who provided lighting and promotion. Well done to all involved!

In May 2016, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students. Information about the NAPLAN tests will be distributed to students and parents in the near future with important dates and information about NAPLAN. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs.

Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement and will be able to compare their child’s performance against the national minimum standard. If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact the school on 02 6336 1606.

On your bike

Oberon High School is committed to improving the safety of all individuals on the road again in 2016. Our school is working closely with the Chifley Local Area Command Youth Liaison Officer – Constable Matt Holden to improve the safety of our students who ride their bikes and scooters to school each day. Our school must play a significant role in educating our students about road safety and the required safety equipment needed at all times. I would also like to encourage all our parents to consider the safety of our students while approaching the school in cars when picking up or dropping off their children.

When cycling on the road it is important to be visible, predictable in your actions and aware of what is happening around you. You also need to wear a correctly fitted, approved bicycle helmet. For day riding, wear bright coloured clothing and reflective clothing at night. Lights and reflectors front and back are also needed for night riding.

As a bicycle rider always make sure you:
- Give way to motorists and pedestrians when they have right of way.
- Cycle about a metre away from the kerb to avoid debris and from parked cars to avoid opening doors.
- Let people know your intentions by using hand signals when turning or changing lanes.
- Remember, eye contact with other road users is important to signal clear intention.
Making online payments are now possible

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $Make a payment you must enter:

- the student's name, and class and reference number OR
- the student's name, and date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. While there is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number, these are not used at our school, so please leave this option blank.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

When? - This payment method will go live on 18 March 2016

How? - Log onto School site at www.oberon-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/. Click on “Make a Payment” and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office on 02 6336 1606.

It’s on again - March Market Madness

On Friday 18th March 2016, the Oberon High School P&C combined with the entire student body will again present the annual March Market Madness afternoon. The craziness will start after lunch and we are looking forward to welcoming increased numbers from the community and other schools on the day. Year groups will be heavily involved in running stalls to raise money which will be used to purchase resources to assist their learning in 2016. Last year our staff impressed with their willingness to help the students with their stalls.

This year there will be many of the same stalls as last year and we are again hoping to invite parents and community members to bring in their cars and have then washed for a great cause. Maybe the highway patrol from our local area command will again bring their police cars to be washed by our teachers and students.

I would like to acknowledge the great support the P&C has provided our school through subsidizing laptops in our BYOD program. The P&C have organised a huge raffle and a silent auction to assist with raising money for various school based programs in 2016. I would like to thank in advance the P&C Association, Mr Luccarda for his organisation, the Year Advisors, and all staff who will give up their own time late on a Friday afternoon.

(More details - pages 9 and 12 of this newsletter).
Our Rural Cup Defence – Thursday 10th March 2016

Our biggest sporting event of the year, the defence of the Rural Cup will start next week on Thursday 10th March 2016. We face Molong Central School in Oberon in what will be again prove to be a tough test now they have Miss Corby as a PD/H/PE teacher giving away all our secrets. The second round is set for Thursday 26th May 2016 in Canowindra against Canowindra High School. I would like to wish all our students and staff the very best of lucky in Rural Cup this year.

A reminder to parents; the home Rural Cup competition starts at 8.30am and finishes at 5.00pm on the day. If you have questions surrounding the Rural Cup organisation please contact the school and speak with Mrs Tania Pringle who has done a mountain of work in preparation for the event.

Rural Cup has been scheduled earlier this year and the weather may be quite warm next Thursday. I would encourage all students to make sure they have sunscreen and ample drinking water to rehydrate throughout the day. School uniform is an essential component in being part of the school team. Wear our uniform with pride and see Mr Barwick or Mr Luccarda if you have uniform issues.

New Student Representative Council

Thanks to Miss Shannon Marshall for her efforts in interviewing students who nominated for the Student Representative Council for 2016. Again this year we have been overwhelmed with the interest from students in the junior years who see a great opportunity to contribute to school decisions and raise money for worthwhile charities. Many senior students in our new compressed curriculum have chosen to place a major focus on their studies to ensure the best possible result in the HSC this year. I am pleased they have a long term vision in this new structure. Congratulations to all students who were selected. There will be an official induction assembly in the near future where parents and carers will be invited to attend.

The 2016 SRC representatives are listed below;

Year 8 – Ellie Maguire, Tiarna Boundy, Jade Taggart, Phoenix Cooper-Beattie, Evelyn Eggins, Peta McGrath, Lachlan Gibbs.
Year 9 - Bayden Ham, John Sikima, Kane Day, Brooke Stanton.
Year 10 - Crystal Jeffriess, Jasmin Noble, Natahliia Stapleton.
Year 11 - Emmett Bowman, Jess Maclure.
Year 12 - Bronte Leihn, Amy Mills, Claudia Limon, Angus Fittler, Kurt Boundy, Brandon Franklin.

Year 7 Camp - Dubbo

Early in Week 7 we will be eagerly awaiting reports back from the Year 7 Camp which will visit Dubbo’s Western Plains Zoo and the Old Dubbo Gaol amongst other activities. Year Advisor, Ms Hibbert, along with Mr Trent Grantham and Mrs Nicole Francis supervised the overnight camp which was attended by almost all of our Year 7 students. A full report on the Year 7 Camp will appear in our next newsletter. If you have any issues or questions about programs at Oberon High School, please contact Craig Luccarda or Ken Barwick on 02 6336 1606.
It’s your canteen and it needs your help

“Around 1948 a group of women members of the P&C Association, led by Mrs Win Cunynghame, commenced canteen services by serving hot soup and pies from tables set up in the playground. As the years passed the facilities and services were gradually improved, due to the hard work of a comparatively small group of women. Canteen proceeds have been spent in two ways.

Some finance, understandably, has been devoted to improving the canteen facilities, with the Committee providing two pie heaters, four strip heaters, a battery clock, and various other items necessary for the preparation and dispensing of food. Other finance has been devoted to the provision of educational aids and equipment. Since the beginning of 1968 more than $2,200 has been spent in this way. Purchases have included: shrubs and trees, the World Book Encyclopaedia set in the Library, a safe, a duplicating machine and duplicating and stationery supplies, portable safety screens, paintings, a film projector, various textbooks, a record player and various art and craft materials”.

(Excerpt taken from 1872 - 1972: A Brief History of Oberon Central School p.30)

Catching up with the Captains

In September 2015 the student leadership team for 2016 was elected. The successful candidates for captain were Bronte Leihn and Angus Fittler. Recently we caught up with the two captains to see how their year in office was progressing.

Angus has used his position as captain (and Werong house captain) to motivate other students to participate in activities such as the athletics and swimming carnivals. He believes that Oberon High students will benefit from ‘having a go’, trying and taking advantage of opportunities. They will learn through experience.

Bronte has been focussed on maintaining and improving standards of behaviour and dress in the school, and is pleased with the improvements she has seen. On a personal note, the experience of being captain has given her more self-confidence and improved her leadership skills.

Both Angus and Bronte strongly believe in leading by example and being good role models for the other students. They meet regularly with Mr Craig Luccarda, the Deputy Principal and Mr Ken Barwick, the Principal to discuss issues that affect students. They give feedback to the students via announcements on assembly and informally in daily conversations in the playground.

Bronte and Angus are supported in their captain roles by Claudia Limon, Amy Mills, Brandon Franklin and Kurt Boundy who are the school vice-captains. They look forward to continuing to represent their school in 2016.
KLA Spotlight - Science / Careers

In each newsletter one Key Learning Area (KLA) will report on significant activities. This spotlight is on Science and Careers

It is with unalloyed satisfaction and legitimate pride that I present the highlights of the activities undertaken in the Science faculty since the beginning of the current academic year.

Beginning with the Year 7; the transition phase at the end of 2015 was highly successful because it clearly distilled the idea that Science is most captivating when it is integrated with lots of activities. Nearly all the students in Year 7 are establishing good skills and gaining experience in science. They displayed their capabilities during our first assessment task, a practical task, in the past week. The results are being compiled at the moment and will be available over Millennium by next week. Year 9 are currently engaged in their second assessment task, whereas Year 10 are preparing for their practical assessment tasks in two weeks time.

Year 11 Physics and Senior Science classes have also completed two of their assessment tasks and are currently studying the final module for the Preliminary course. Preliminary yearly examinations are scheduled to begin on the 29th of March 2016 together with the HSC half-yearly examination. If they start now students have plenty of time at their disposal to pursue their revision work thoroughly which will ensure they are confident in their examination.

Last year students in Years 8 and 10 sat the VALID Science Examination (the replacement for ESSA). The results have been quite pleasing and encouraging. A thorough analysis of the results will be undertaken and information will be disseminated through the next newsletter.

The careers branch of the Science faculty organised an excursion for Year 12 students to a regional ‘University Roadshow’ at which students will have the opportunity to speak with university representatives and gather information that will help them set future career goals. This event was held at the Denison College, BHS Campus on the 3rd of March.

The Science faculty would like to congratulate Mrs Adrienne Beddis on her appointment, at the start of term, as a Head Teacher at Kelso High School but we were sad to see such an experienced Science teacher leave OHS. Our tireless search for a replacement has been successful. Peter O’Neill from Nyngan High will fill the vacancy from the beginning of term 2.

The Science faculty has spent most of its allocated budget to cater for advance technology in teaching. This includes buying modern equipment, textbooks and teacher resources.

Finally, our concerted and collaborative efforts in ensuring the success of the newly implemented 3x3 curriculum has begun to yield the fruit in the shape of a paradigm shift in the teaching and learning process. Please join me in celebrating the success of this fruitful venture.

Wishing you all a happy Easter holidays.

Gyan Mudaliar
Head Teacher
Botany Quiz Time

Test your plant recognition knowledge and skills.

Can you name the plants pictured above?

See Mr Mudaliar for the answers
Homework Centre
Homework Centre is now held on Tuesdays at recess in the Library. Morning tea is provided and students can get help with study, homework, assignments and assessment tasks. Teachers from every KLA are available to help.

RYDA
Year 11 students travelled to Mount Panorama to participate in RYDA - a series of practical and powerful workshops that aim to change the way young people think about road safety.

As part of an interactive one-day experience, students experience braking at different speeds, devise travel strategies that will work for them in the real world and get tips from road safety experts on how to protect themselves, their friends and family.

Most impact for the students comes from the personal stories on loss and survival. RYDA is designed for students who are approaching that crucial time in their lives when they start to drive independently or are travelling as passengers of novice drivers.

Thanks to Rotary for their support of this life saving program for our students.
March Market Madness - year group activities for 18 March 2016

**Lolly Bags & Hair Spray**

*Year 7*

**White Elephant Stall**

Year 8 need donations. Drop off your good quality toys, dvds, cds, household items or clothes to the school before 18 March

*Year 10*

**Pillow Fighting**

*Year 12*

**Car Wash and BBQ**

*Year 11*

**Lucky Dip & Hoop Shooting**

*Year 9*

**Chocolate Toss and Lolly Pong**

*Year 11*
OHS Digital suite

Oberon High school has paid for students to access an educational digital suite. The proven benefits of using information from databases over general webpages include the fact that they are professionally produced by experts and updated regularly. All students can use these databases on any device, anywhere.

Skwirk

An online textbook for 7 - 10 English, Maths, Science, History and Geography


Log on

Username: DET internet username   Password: ohskwirk

Wheelers

An ebook library; read on your own device

https://oberonhigh.wheelers.co/

Log on

Username: DET internet username   Password: ohswheelers

(Students can request books on the platform in the library suggestion book)

Enhancetv

Access to documentaries and movies


Log on

Username: Google drive username   Password: Google drive password

(Students can request recordings but must submit requests to the teacher librarian 72 hours in advance of airing on free-to-air or foxtel)
A sample page of skwirk

The origins of the society: fact and myth

In this chapter:
- The origins of Egyptian society can be found in the importance of the Nile
- The delta and the southern river valley had two very different environments
- Around 3600 BC, nomadic people moved into the Nile valley and developed agricultural practices
- Around 3100 BC, King Nammer/Menes united the two lands of Egypt
- Egyptian civilisation developed many cultural traditions that were practised for over 3000 years

Introduction
The world of ancient Egypt speaks to us through monumental buildings and the relics inscribed upon them. These relics depict strange people. They walk strangely, their torsos are twisted, and they wear all sorts of curious headdresses and wigs. Their gods were humans with animal heads. They dined the dead bodies of loved ones, wrapped them in bandages and buried them in beautifully decorated tombs with all sorts of treasures.

How did the ancient Egyptians develop this strange culture?
The answer to this question is quite straightforward. It lies in the geography of the region. The land of the ancient Egyptians occupied a fertile river valley, surrounded by deserts and bordered by the Mediterranean Sea. The climate was dry and sunny. The most important factor that shaped ancient Egyptian society, fact, and myth, however, were the rise and fall of the Nile and the geography and topography (shape of the land) of Egypt itself.

Egypt: The gift of the Nile
There were two environments in Egypt, the humid north and the dry south. The two environments of Egypt created two very different ancient cultures. They worshipped different gods and spoke different languages. The dry, desert region of southern Egypt was called Upper Egypt. Upper and Lower Egypt were characterised by their different environments and were called the Two Lands of Egypt. Refer to Image 1

‘Growing’ a society
Around 3500 BC, the nomadic people who lived in Egypt developed farming techniques. They planted and harvested crops such as wheat, barley, and flax. Over hundreds of years these agricultural techniques were perfected. The Egyptians were able to predict the flooding of the Nile. The Egyptians had found a secure food source in farming and they no longer lived a nomadic lifestyle. Early Egyptians domesticated animals; set up villages and small towns and formed an early society. They stored their food and created tools to make farming life easier. Over time the Egyptians developed religious beliefs and leisure activities.

A sample of books available on Wheelers

If you have any questions about the OHS digital suite (Skwirk, ePlatform by Wheelers books, or Enhance TV) please contact Miss Grace, Teacher Librarian.
What’s Happening
Wednesday, 9 March - Vaccinations - all year 7
Thursday, 10 March - Rural Cup v. Molong @ Oberon
Thursday, 10 March - P&C AGM - all welcome - contact Gayle Voerman 0419 445 767
Friday, 18 March - March Market Madness - all welcome - contact Gayle Voerman 0419 445 767
Tuesday, 22 March - Butterfly effect - program for girls year 7-9 - contact Ms Amber Hibbert
Friday, 25 March to Monday, 28 March - Easter break

Your P&C
The AGM is on Thursday 10th March at 5pm and all positions will be declared vacant. Membership fee of $2 per person or $5 family will give you full voting rights. All fees are put back into helping OHS students. If the only thing stopping you from joining is the day/time of meetings please contact Gayle 0419 445 767. Please consider becoming involved in your P&C and nominate for a position.

March Market Madness is on Friday, 18th March from 2pm to 7pm. The P&C will be selling popcorn, fairyfloss and drinks. The P&C are currently running a raffle and will be holding a silent auction on the day.

The major item up for bidding in the silent auction is a framed cricket bat signed by Mitchell Johnson from the Australian cricket team. Other items are :-
- Item 2: $500 cash,
- Item 3: $200 Meat Voucher
- Item 4: Wine Pack (5 Bottles Assorted wines)
- Item 5: Homeware Package (includes 2 serving platters, kettle)
- Item 6: Kids package of assorted items

March Market Madness is an afternoon of fun, with class groups raising funds to support students and purchase resources for the school.

The whole community is invited to March Market Madness and, if you want to set up your own stall, please contact Gayle Voerman on 0419 445 767.

Kind Citizen Award - Students and staff are reminded that they may nominate someone for a Kind Citizen Award if they see them performing a kind act.

This is a monthly award sponsored by the P&C and the winner is presented with their certificate and prize at school assembly.

Gayle Voerman
President, P&C

ABOVE: P&C members selling popcorn at Variety in (free)Fall
IRONFEST will be held at Lithgow Showground on 16th & 17th April 2016.

Educating through entertainment, Ironfest features historical events over two days, including jousting and other events accurately depicting extremely interesting periods in history. Dramatic re-enactments feature artillery, cavalry and infantry. There is a fully authentic military encampment, hospital and blacksmith’s workshop. Lots of roving entertainers, music, dance, woodturning demonstrations, birds of prey, as well as Australian made goods on sale at the stalls.
Saturday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Visit the Ironfest website at www.ironfest.net for more information

AT GATE DURING IRONFEST:
One day - Adult $40; Conc. $30; Child $25; Family $95.
2 Day Weekend - Adult $55; Conc. $45; Child $35; Family $140
FAMILY TICKET includes 2 adults and 3 school age children.
Any extra children over the age of 6 are to have their own ticket.

It’s time to share What Matters? to you

Sometimes a great selfie or hilarious meme can't quite capture what really matters to you.

If you are a student in years 5-12 and have an idea about what matters to you, then why not put it in writing and enter the 2016 What Matters? Competition.

Competition judges are waiting with great anticipation to get an understanding of what issues are important to young people today.

The What Matters? Competition is a platform for young people's ideas and stories to be heard. It offers a window into the lives of young Australians: not just what concerns them but what inspires them. Young people are passionate, observant and articulate and are deeply driven by a sense of social justice.

Prizes: Cash, trophies, writing workshops, etc. All winning entries will be published in print and online.

Entries close Friday 6 May 2016. Entry forms can be downloaded from http://www.whitlam.org/whatmatters.

For more information, contact the Whitlam Institute on (02) 9685 9210 or visit www.whitlam.org.

PARENTING TEENAGERS

Veritas House will be conducting the popular Teen Triple P parenting program from our premises at 106 Russell Street Bathurst soon.

Bring the joy back into parenting and solve problems such as,

- Over use of technology
- Resistance to school
- No help around the house

The program is free and begins on Tuesday 15 March 2016 Morning or evening sessions available.

Please ring Graham Palmer on 6332 2277 for more information and to reserve a place.
On 18 March 2016, the National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence, over 100 Oberon High School students will participate in a performance to deliver a message saying that they want to close the gap and celebrate cultural diversity.

The performance :-
• will be filmed by students from Mr Lyle’s photography classes,
• is also in support of National Close the Gap Day (17th March),
• will tell a story through rap,
• will use a didgeridoo beatbox composition written specially for the performance by indigenous musicians from the conservatorium.

The resulting film clip will be submitted to the 2016 Schools Spectacular.

Contact Mr Matt Leven, Oberon High School Aboriginal Education Coordinator for more information, or go to the following websites.

