

OAGS News



Securing Success...



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From the Deputy Headmaster

The semester has started at its usually frenetic pace as we have enjoyed getting back into the routine of term time. Recently I was privileged to accompany our Year 11 students on their annual snow and tertiary experience camp in week 1. Students enjoyed 2 days on snow at Thredbo, before touring through the Australian National University, Australian Defence Force Academy/University of NSW Campus and the University of Canberra. I'd like to commend the exemplary conduct of our students while on this camp, something that was commented on by numerous members of the public.



Straight off the back of this event was the OAGS Interschool Equestrian event hosted at Cudal over the weekend. Mrs Eyb, our Coordinator of ACE did an absolutely outstanding job to coordinate the event. The convoy of Horse Floats that descended on the show ground over the course of the weekend consisted of participants travelling up to 7 hours to compete. The overwhelming feedback was that the event was an impressive success, given that it is in its inaugural year.

I'd like to thank Mrs Eyb, her willing team of volunteers, the Cadets and all the staff who assisted her in the running of a fine event. Next year promises to be bigger and better again, the OAGS Equestrian interschool is here to stay. I'd like to welcome all families back to school for the 2nd half of the year, and particularly welcome the families of the 12 new students who have commenced with us this past fortnight.



Every Blessing,
Scott Hazelton
Deputy Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Parent Teacher Interviews

Primary School
15th & 16th August
3:30pm -7pm

Secondary School
16th & 17th August
3:30pm - 8pm

More Information and the booking
will open in a few days

Can you help us by volunteering in the school Canteen? Due to a shortage of helpers, the Canteen will **not be serving food in the afternoon break until further notice**. All students who have pre-ordered their lunch will be served during the morning break, with the canteen closed after 12:30pm to enable food preparation for the next day. Please consider if you can spare a few hours each week to assist Miranda with the tremendous job she does to feed our growing community.



PREP NEWS

Prep and Year 5 Buddies

We hope this newsletter finds you well and full of enthusiasm as we embark on a new term filled with opportunities for growth, collaboration, and friendship. We are thrilled to announce that this term, our Prep students will be participating in a special "Buddies Program" with the Year 5 students. We have meticulously planned a series of wonderful provocations to support friendship and collaboration, fostering a strong sense of community within our school.

The Buddies Program aims to create meaningful connections between our youngest learners and the year 5 students. By pairing our Prep students with Year 5, we provide a unique opportunity for them to engage in enriching and supportive relationships that extend beyond their respective classrooms. This initiative not only promotes a positive school environment but also has numerous benefits for both age groups involved.



Fortnightly Meet-ups

To make the most of this program, our Prep and Year 5 students will come together on a fortnightly basis, engaging in various activities designed to promote friendship, collaboration, and personal growth. These activities will be thoughtfully curated by our dedicated teachers, ensuring that they align with the age-appropriate developmental needs of both groups.

We genuinely believe that the Buddies Program will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to grow socially and emotionally, fostering lasting friendships and making unforgettable memories. We encourage you, as parents and guardians, to support and reinforce the values of friendship, empathy, and cooperation at home, so the children can truly embrace the spirit of this program.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support in making our school community a nurturing and enriching place for our students. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Buddies Program, please feel free to reach out to us.

Let's make this term one to remember with newfound friendships and exciting learning adventures!

Mr Borden
Classroom Teacher/ Assistant coordinator



PRIMARY NEWS

Kindergarten Celebrate 100 Days of Learning

On Friday 21st July, Kindergarten reached an important milestone in their educational journey here at OAGS. They clocked up their 100th day in the classroom. To mark this wonderful occasion, the Kindergarten team planned a wonderful day of activities around the theme of 100 Days Brighter.

Students arrived wearing bright and colourful outfits, some even decorating their outfits with 100 items and the teachers donned their 100 Days Superhero Capes! Thank you to the parents for helping the children with their special outfits. We loved the creativity.

We started the day by creating 100th Day beaded necklaces, one colourful bead for each day of Kindy. Then it was time for a little dancing at our special Kindy disco in the Media Centre followed by some quiet time to make 100 Day crowns. Our Year 6 Buddies came to visit us and played a race to 100 board game which was lots of fun. We finished our day decorating biscuits with 100s and 1000s and lots of other yummy treats.

The Kindergarten Team is so proud of each and every Kindergarten student and how much they have grown and developed over the past 100 days and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for our wonderful students.

The Kindergarten Team

Mrs Pearson, Mrs Xi, Mrs Purvis and Mr Eltham



Primary School Update

Our beloved Mrs Jess Willis is enjoying a well deserved break of long service leave. While she is recharging her batteries and enjoying some time with Gilbert and her horse, our Primary School will be left in the capable hands of **Mrs Michelle Pearson**. While still teaching the Jewel Beetles, Mrs Pearson will step up as the acting Director of Primary. We are also excited to announce that we have a new pastoral care coordinator in the Primary school - **Mrs Georgina Willis**. Mrs Willis is an experienced primary teacher who has already been lovingly embraced by our students. She will spend time in each of our Primary classrooms teaching Thrive and getting to know the students.

Fun facts:

Both Mrs Pearson & Mrs Willis have 2 children.

Both Mrs Pearson & Mrs Willis love drinking coffee.

Both Mrs Pearson & Mrs Willis love reading.

Both Mrs Pearson & Mrs Willis love Summer.

Both Mrs Pearson & Mrs Willis love to get out in their gardens.

Mrs Pearson loves the colour turquoise. Mrs Willis loves the colour pink.

Mrs Pearson loves going to the gym & Mrs Willis love taking her dog for a walk.

Mrs Pearson is partial to a sweet treat & Mrs Willis' go to is savoury.

Mrs Pearson loves Baking & Mrs Willis love to be cooked for.



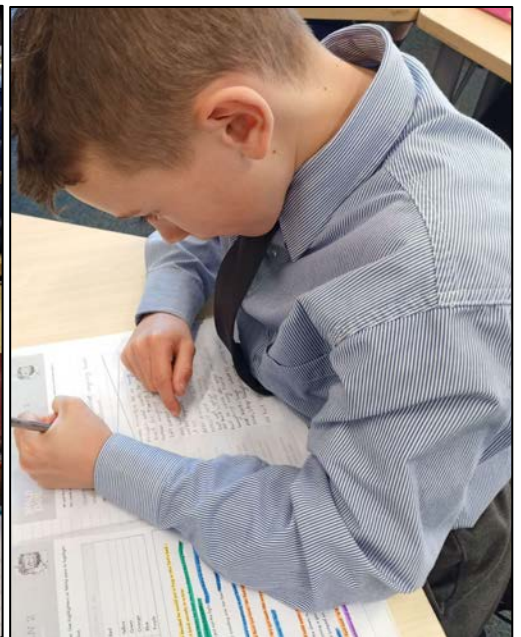
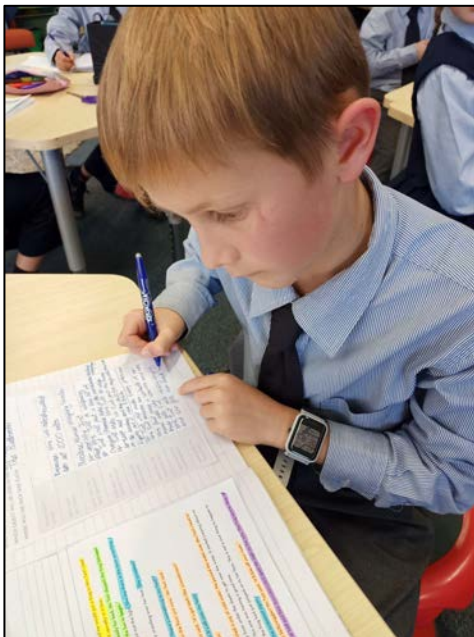
Stage 2 - The Twits

This term, Stage 2 is exploring the world of Roald Dahl through his classic story 'The Twits'. Filled with hilarious slapstick style pranks, students are creatively devising their own trick for Mr and Mrs Twit to play on each other. Weaving together engaging dialogue, drawn out tension and definitely 'banning the boring', students are continuing to experiment with how to engage readers through the 'Seven Steps' approach to writing that we have been learning about throughout the year.

Students have planned their trick by detailing aspects such as a creative chapter title, why play the trick, what it will involve, how the trickster will act, how the victim will react and how the trick will humorously end as the tension builds to a climax. The next step will involve detailed scripting, which will see students narrate their scene and creatively use dialogue to develop a well thought out chapter of their own for The Twits.

Paul Lipscomb

Stage 2 Coordinator



Primary Schools Chess Competition - Orange Zone

On July 26 / 27, students from Years 1 ~ 6 participated in the Orange Zone Primary Schools Chess Competition. Competing against students from schools such as Kinross Wolaroi, Millthorpe Public School and Orange Christian School, we represented OAGS in four divisions - Championship, Intermediate, Rookie and Junior Rookie.

Our teams represented OAGS strongly, demonstrating not only effective strategic thinking, but also working well together in teams and modelling to their competitors what the true spirit of the event was - fun and good sportsmanship.

Whilst there were many wins on the board across all four of our teams, it was particularly impressive seeing Nate Johnston and Hamish Holgate not defeated once in any of their games across the two day competition - well done boys!

Joe Cummins, who has continued to support our school in chess for many years, was a true inspiration to serving his community, providing much encouragement to students with expert tips and tricks in his master class session provided for the Championship teams.

All in all, a wonderful outcome for the event!

Paul Lipscomb
Primary Chess Coordinator



Secondary Chess Club

Master Class – Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm. Students attending are learning great strategies and skill from Mr Joe Cummins. Interested players are always welcome.

NSW Secondary Schools Knockout Championship (Western Region) – Mykayla Hazelton, Bec Kemp, Liam Nyers-saunders, Rohan Mittal, Charlotte Johnston and Blake Gleeson went to Kinross on Wednesday 19 July to play our round 4 match. It was a very close match with 2 boards each but unfortunately we lost on the final countback.

OAGS Competition. The Primary school competition is progressing well. The Secondary school competition has commenced with some great games played showing the improved skill levels of all.



SECONDARY NEWS

Australian Mathematics Competition

There is only one more week until the "Australian Mathematics Competition" (AMC), with the competition to be held on Wednesday, 2nd August between 11.30am and 1.30pm. Thank you to those parents who have registered their child to complete the competition. Entries are now closed. It is pleasing to note that we have a record number of 85 students participating.

Students are encouraged to complete practice papers in the lead up to the competition. The link to the portal with past papers and their solutions is [here](#).

We look forward to seeing the results.

Jane Keene
Secondary Mathematics Teacher

HOT CHOCOLATE

YEAR 12 FUNDRAISER



Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Only \$2

Primary and Secondary students are encouraged to bring along \$2 on the cold winter mornings of Term 3 to enjoy a hot chocolate prepared by our Year 12 students.

C6 window from 8am - 8.45am

OAGS CANTEEN NEEDS YOU!

Do you have 3 hours to volunteer in our Canteen once a week or more?

The canteen has seen a huge increase in lunches being made for both the Primary and Secondary Schools and we would love for volunteers to help Miranda.

Please contact Student Services
02 6360 4811

LOOKING FOR MUMS, DADS, & GRANDPARENTS

Are you available from 9am to 12pm any day from Monday to Friday



Expressions of Interest Calling Singers & Musicians

An evening of traditional and contemporary christian music performed by local artists

**Abundant Life Church
Heart for the House Dinner
Friday August 11
118 Adelaide Street Blayney**

For more information
Contact Tracy
0457 153 353

 Abundantlifechurch





CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Amazing Adventures of Superstan Digital Video Recording

Relive the hilarity of our 2023 Primary Show The Amazing Adventures of Superstan! The Digital Video Recording will be released very soon to all who have pre-ordered a copy. If you would like to order a digital copy of the show, please complete the [Google Form here](#). \$25 will be charged to the student's school account. Please remember that the video recording is only for private viewing and not for distribution.

Mrs Priscilla Colgan
Music Teacher



Primary Strings Ensemble

How wonderful it is to see our Primary String Ensemble growing! Welcome to all our new members - it is so lovely to hear your progress and the contribution that each of you brings to the group. As Peter commented: 'it was hard at first but now it's easy!'. We can't wait to hear you all playing together soon. Thanks to Miss Angela D'Elia for her wonderful work with our Primary musicians.



Upcoming Performances:

August 3	Orange Eisteddfod - Dance (All groups)
August 13 to 16	HICES Festival Camp & Concert
August 23	Bathurst Eisteddfod - Dance (Senior Company)
August 23	Bathurst Eisteddfod - Dance (Junior Company)
August 24	Orange Eisteddfod - Choirs (Senior Vocal Ensemble & Mediant)
August 27	Sunday Senior Band Workshop
August 30	Orange Eisteddfod - Band Day (afternoon & evening)

EQUESTRIAN @OAGS

Contact equestrian@oags.nsw.edu.au



OAGS Equestrian Interschool Extravaganza

What an incredible weekend of horses and community at Cudal last weekend with the inaugural OAGS Interschool Equestrian event. Attracting riders from throughout the state to compete for over \$30,000 in prizes thanks to some incredibly generous support from the local community and OAGS families, this really was a whole community event showcasing the many talents of our school.

The 252 ACU Cadets based at OAGS, shivered their way through the cold nights on the weekend, managing everything from parking to campfire management, show jump course building and equipment movement. Praise from the competitors for the cadets has been overwhelming and without their energy and enthusiasm, this event could not have run as it did.

So many staff pitched in to help with Mrs Pottie directing the sporting events along with parent Jarrad Haynes, while other staff gave up their weekend to score and pencil dressage days - we thank you all for your generosity. A massive thanks must go to the parent committee of Jarrad Haynes, Alisa Haynes, Felicity Harris, and Tavia Lyons. Gwenda Bunworth, Mitch Lyons, Pru Lindfield, Viv White and Heidi and Luke Buckland also dedicated countless hours cleaning and preparing the grounds. A big shout to Adam Spicer for repairing the showjumping surface that had been badly damaged after the last two wet seasons. Our key sponsors Newmarket Saddlery and P.J.L. have provided incredible support, and our appreciation also goes to the minor sponsors for everything you have done.



The P/JL Bar Spectacular under Lights was a key highlight for many, with some incredible moments being captured under lights, including the above photo of the winner Harriet Downling overcome with happiness being congratulated by Deputy Headmaster Mr Scott Hazelton. A beautiful moment capturing the very soul of the OAGS spirit.

Our own riders did exceptionally well collecting a run of ribbons, and more importantly kicking some serious riding goals. Here are some of the beautiful images captured over the weekend. A full breakdown of the results and further photos will be posted in upcoming newsletters, but the OAGS Equestrian Interschool event is sure to become a major feature on the equestrian interschool.





STUDENT ADVOCACY

Access The Thrive

Exciting opportunities will be available for students from next week in The Thrive Centre.

The Centre will be open on Monday and Tuesday afternoons for **secondary students** from Years 7-12 to drop in and **Access** help with their studies between 3.30 and 5pm.

Every **Monday**, Mrs Kimmins will be available to help individual students with English, History and Geography and every **Tuesday**, Mr Johnston will be available to help with Maths and Science.

Students are invited to come for part or all of the session and work on homework or assessment tasks, knowing help will be available in English, Maths, Science and H.S.I.E if required.

Students who do not wish to access help, but would like to complete their homework are most welcome to attend.

There is no need, at this stage, to sign up for these sessions, just turn up.

The Learning Support staff will be available for **primary students** from Years 1-6 to **Access** every morning before school from 8.00am - 8.50am. Help will be either given individually or in small groups in Literacy and Numeracy. Sessions must be booked by parents and may be done so by emailing the writer.

Please contact me for further information or to discuss either opportunity.

Pauline Dwyer
Coordinator of Learning Support
pauline.dwyer@oags.nsw.edu.au

Volunteering Opportunities

Please can we ask if there are any OAGS community members that would like to volunteer in the classroom. Whether it be reading groups, art afternoons, or phonics fun. We're looking for mums, dads, aunts, uncles, nans and pops.

It's free to apply for a "Working with Children" Check and you'd be invaluable to our Learning Support Team.
[Click here to apply.](#)

Please contact the office if you have a current WWC and would like to offer your time.

We are looking for a full-time volunteer to work with one student one on one each day if that's something you could offer and would find rewarding please contact admin@oags.nsw.edu.au

Thank you so much!





252 ARMY CADETS UNIT

NSW Promotion Courses 1-8 July (Holsworthy) - Congratulations to the cadets who attended and qualified on promotion courses as follows: CUO – Utah Middleton; SGT – Amaya Johnston, Will Roberts and Layla Docherty; CPL – Alex Baines, Chad Fenton, Will Cooney. LT Russell Player, 2LT Brynn Player and CAPT Nye also attended as staff on these courses

Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge 1-8 July (Canungra QLD) - Well done to our representatives - Patrick Wright, Scarlett Petty, Broghan O'Donnell, Natasha Baker, Rohan Mittal, Ben Catlin and Felicity Hack who tried their best to overcome the many issues - we never had a chance to get the whole NSW team together and train properly, Qantas lost their baggage for 3 days so they had to get new uniforms and boots in QLD which meant blisters and being very unsettled without their own gear. Despite all the negatives they have come back personally stronger with more resilience having pushed through endurance and physically demanding challenges as a team.

Bunnings BBQ 22 July - Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from this activity due to our priority being the Biv at Cudal supporting the inaugural OAGS Interschool Equestrian event.

T3 Bivouac 21-23 July at Cudal (supporting OAGS Interschools Equestrian Event)

What a weekend which started on Thursday night with myself, Russell and Brynn Player plus Peter Reid jnr, setting up the Command Post at Cudal so it was ready for Friday morning when we arrived. Our advance Party of 15 cadets plus 2LT Coutts, 2LT Reid and Mrs O'Neill worked hard all day on set up tasks – they earned their spaghetti bolognese dinner prepared by Mrs Jewell. The main body arrived on Friday afternoon which increased our numbers to 30 cadets and 6 adults. The unit has received many accolades and positive comments from staff, parents and members of the public for our work at the event with gate control, traffic management and parking, erecting show jumps, assisting judges, checking toilets and resupply of paper, assisting the canteen, etc.

Thank you to LT Peter F Reid, 2LT Peter J Reid, 2LT Brynn Player, 2LT Nigel Coutts, 2LT Anne McAlister, 2LT Peter McGoldrick and Mrs Jade O'Neill for giving up your weekend AND sleep in tents (on 2 very cold nights) to supervise the cadets. As usual, LT Russell Player was working overtime behind the scenes.

Whilst supporting the Equestrian event, we were able to concurrently achieve cadet training objectives such as Command Post operations, radio procedures, quick orders, picquet duties, leadership of small teams plus revise many things prior to Annual camp at end of Term 3.

NOW Recruiting - We are now open to taking on new recruits until end of August. If you have friends that wish to join or find out more, have them come along on a Monday 4.30-7.30pm. After August, the next opportunity to join will be February 2024.

Adult Helpers - We are now open to taking on new recruits until end of August. If you have friends that wish to join or find out more, have them come along on a Monday 4.30-7.30pm. After August, the next opportunity to join will be February 2024.

Annual Camp (AFX) at Majura (Canberra) is Sunday 24 – Friday 29 September - Names of attendees MUST be confirmed asap. There are limited spaces available. Preparation will occur during the coming weeks.

Important Dates - No Monday Parades during OAGS School Holiday breaks

- 9-10 Sep LCPL Course – selected cadets only
- 9-10 Sep Recruit Induction w/e - selected cadets
- 24-29 Sep AFX (Annual Camp) – Majura Range (Canberra) - ALL**
- 3-4 Nov T4 Activity – Singleton WTSS & Museum - ALL
- 12-20 Jan 24 NSW Promotion Courses – selected cadets**

CAPT (AAC) Terry Nye
Officer Commanding
252 ACU





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