Welcome back to the 2015 school year. It has been pleasing to see the students return to the school in such a positive fashion, in full school uniform and with a positive attitude towards their study. I would like to welcome any new students and their families to the Oberon High School community. I am sure that you will have a very positive educational experience whilst at the school.

A number of staff have re-joined the school for the 2015 school year. I welcome back Mr Adrian Stirling who was on leave for the 2014 school year. Mrs Jo Anglin who returns to the school after family leave and Mr Preet Sachdeva who has been appointed to a mathematics vacancy. Mr Alvin Ang has been employed for term one in a replacement position.

School Council Election Nominations

Do you wish to make a contribution to the school community and have a greater understanding of and influence on the future direction of the school. If this appeals to you I encourage you to nominate yourself for school council.

We currently have vacancies in the following categories: Parent member - 3 vacancies (2 years). If you are interested in becoming a Council member under any of these categories please contact me at the school on 52 434444 as nominations are due to me by Monday 23rd February at 4pm. If there are more people interested than there are vacancies, a Council election will be held to determine the successful Council members.

See the timeline in this newsletter for more information.

School Structure

The school has made a structural change moving from House Leaders to Year Level managers for the 2015 school year. The relevant Assistant Principals and Year Level managers that should be contacted if you have a concern with your son/daughter are as follows:

Years 7-9

Assistant Principal Year 7-9 – Mr Josh Baker
Year 7 Manager – Mrs Lyndie Filipovski
Year 8 Manager – Mr Adam Freeman
Year 9 Manager – Mr Sean Fitzgerald
Year 7-9 Assistant Manager – Mr Nick Sack

Years 10-12

Assistant Principal Year 10-12 – Ms Liz Kelly
Year 10 Manager – Mrs Sharon Jimmink-Scott
Year 11 Manager – Mrs Carol Champion
Year 12 Manager – Mrs Deidre Pike

The school will be maintaining House Leaders, however they will be responsible for the organising of inter-house competitions including swimming, athletics and cross country.

School Attendance – Every Day Counts

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study. Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your Year Level Manager, Principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

School Buses

If parents or students are aware of any issues on school buses such as student misbehaviour, overcrowding or buses not getting to school on time. We would appreciate being informed of this at school so that we can work with the bus companies to address these issues.

School Swimming Sports

The school will be holding the House Swimming Sports at the Kardinia Pool on Thursday 19th February. Students are to come to school as normal and will be transported to and from the venue. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Wannik Scholarship

Congratulations to Year 11 student Harrison Fry who has been awarded one of only twenty Wannik Scholarships across the State for the 2015 school year.

Jade Feakes – Top Arts

Congratulations to Year 12 student Jade Feakes who has been accepted into Top Arts for her artwork from VCE Studio Arts in 2014. Jade’s sculpture will be displayed as part of the Top Arts exhibition around Easter time at The National Gallery of Victoria. This is an amazing achievement as it is limited to approximately twelve students across the State from all school sectors.

Canoe Polo

Congratulations to James Winter (Year 11), Ben Winter (Year 10), Lochie Reekie (Year 10), and Chloe Rosin (Year 10) who recently competed in the National Canoe championships in Adelaide and have been selected to play for Australia. James is the Captain of the U18 Australian team.
University Offers 2014

Pleasing results were obtained by our 2014 Year 12 cohort, with 83.87% of our students who applied for a university place, obtaining an offer in the First Round. Of those with an offer, 94.23% gained a place in their top four preferences, and two thirds of these gained their First Preference.

Some of the courses accessed by students included (University of Melbourne), Biomedical Science (Deakin University), Law/International Studies (Deakin University), Medical Imaging (Deakin University).

School Visitors

A reminder that parents/guardians must report to the main office when they come onto the school grounds for a meeting, to pick up your child for an appointment or any other reason. Your adherence to this protocol is appreciated.

DET Policy on Personal Items

A reminder that the Department Education and Training does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors.

School Camps

The school encourages parents to consider taking out travel insurance for school camps as schools often incur a cancellation fee that we are not able to absorb if your child is forced to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances.

Student Safety

Student safety is always a concern around drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Please be careful when dropping students off at school and collecting them at the end of the day and abide by the 40kmh speed limit. It would be appreciated if parents could drop their children in Kidman Avenue and avoid dropping students off and picking them up in the staff parking area both before and after school. The streets around Pickett Crescent and Olwen Avenue become very congested and student safety becomes an issue as many of our students exit the school from this entrance on foot or bikes. If your son/daughter is riding a bike to school they need to wear a helmet for their safety as this is the law. Pickett Crescent has Council restrictions. Please take note of the signs.

Tim McMahon

School Photos

School photos will be taken on Tuesday the 24th of February. Payment envelopes will be sent home with your child prior to photo day. As with other years, any student who misses out can have their portrait/ID photo taken at a later date (this date is to be confirmed). Students are to hand their payment envelopes to the photographers just prior to their portrait/ID being taken. If paying by cash please include correct money as NO change will be available on the day. Late payment will result in a late/search fee. Students also to be in full school uniform with jumper. Year 12 students must have VCE tops.

IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations will be held at School on Thursday 5th March.

Consent forms have been distributed and need to be returned to school by Wednesday 11th February even if your child does not require the immunisation.

Year 7 Students:
- Gardasil (Human Papillomavirus)
- Chicken Pox (Varicella)
- Boostrix - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough (Pertussis) – One single injection

Year 8, 9 & 10 Students:
- Boostrix - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough (Pertussis) – One single injection

If parents have any questions regarding immunisations please call Barwon Health Immunisation on 42 156962 or visit immune@barwonhealth.org.au.
**LANGUAGES NEWS**

**VCE Baccalaureate**

From 2014, students completing VCE can also gain the prestigious VCE Baccalaureate if they meet the following requirements:

- achieve a study score of more than 30 in year 12 English
- complete Units 3 & 4 in either Maths Methods or Specialist Maths
- complete a Language

In 2014, two year 12 students at Oberon HS achieved the award: William Potter (German) and Ryland Vinton (Japanese)

**Indonesian Study Tour Year 10**

Last chance for any year 10 Indonesian students wishing to participate in the Indonesian study tour last 2 weeks of term 3. The deposit must be paid by Friday 13th February for your son/daughter to be included. Any questions, feel free to contact Annette Sigiyanto

**German Sister School Trip – Years 8, 9 & 10 German students**

Expressions of interest for the next round of exchange are currently being sought. The year the German students will come due to September - October and Oberon High School will travel next year during March-April. If you are interested, please contact your German teacher asap to collect a form – Frau Ray or Frau Smith.

**MESSAGE FROM MCHARRY’S BUSLINES**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF WEARING SEAT BELTS ON BUSES**

Many of McHarry’s school buses are fitted with seat belts. Seatbelts are fitted to improve passenger safety. They reduce the risk of serious injury if there is an accident.

It is a legal requirement for a bus passenger to wear a seat belt where there is one fitted. The law states that it is the responsibility of the individual passenger to wear it. It is important that all students are aware of the requirement that seat belts must be worn where provided.

**MASTERING THE VCE LECTURES**

Mastering the VCE is an annual event designed to provide students with the skills and information they need to succeed in the VCE. Featuring a unique collection of guest speakers and VCE experts, this exclusive event offers students a great opportunity to get ahead and maximise ATAR scores. Program features include:

- Specialised Subject Lectures
- Excelling in SACs and Exams
- Course and Career Planning for Senior Students - important tips and traps
- Psychology Success
- The UMAT
- Advanced Study Skills Lecture

Valued at over $250, these highly beneficial lectures are free of charge to students. We do, however, require that students participating in this program make a $10 donation to The Fred Hollows Foundation charity representatives that will be in attendance at Melbourne University on the day of the lectures.

**Venue:** University of Melbourne

**Dates:**
- Sunday 22nd February, 2015
- Saturday 28th February, 2015
- Sunday 1st March, 2015

**Enrolments:** Online at www.tsfx.com.au or please call 03 9663 3311

**Bookings are essential.**

**STUDENT MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Could all parents talk with their students about any medical needs that they may have. Please note the following:

Students should always carry Ventolin Puffers, Epi-Pens, Diabetic Requirements with them on outings – often classes go to sporting activities out of the school, take photos around the area or go out to lunches for Home Group. Sporting bags are locked in the change rooms during class time and are not always accessible. If your student has newly diagnosed or changed medical conditions it is vital that the school is notified of this information.

Any students with anaphalaxis are required to have epi-pens (current date) as follows:

- one to be kept with the student's Action Plan at Sick-Bay at all times, to be labelled with student’s name. (Staff members will take this one when student is on camp or at sport)
- Their own personal named pen to be kept with the student at all times.
- Any changes to their Action Plan must be provided to the school. If your student no longer has an allergy we require this information in writing from your Doctor.

If your student requires antihistamines for hayfever or cramp medication etc. they are able to carry one single dose of their medication with them or parents can send written instructions (name, dosage etc) and give the medication to Office staff who will lock it securely away in Sick Bay. Students are forbidden to offer any medication to another student. Please check that your students medications are in date, this is a vital requirement for Epi-Pens. If you receive a letter from the school reminding you of this need to update, please respond as soon as possible to ensure the safety of your child.

Please advise your son/daughter that emergency supplies of medications such as Ventolin and sanitary products are available in Sick Bay if they see Office Staff. During the warmer weather please remind your child to drink plenty of water during the day. Students are permitted to take water bottles into class.

These guidelines are in place to ensure the health and safety of all our students.

Thank you for your assistance.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS - SICK BAY**

If your son or daughter becomes unwell at school they need to ask their teacher to sign their school planner and come straight to the Office to be signed into Sick Bay. If the student is too unwell to remain at school a staff member in the office will then telephone a parent.

For safety reasons it is important for students not to telephone their parents themselves. Please remind your son or daughter that Sick Bay is a place for sick students to rest before being picked up by a parent or before returning to class. It is not a place for extended stays. It is vitally important for parents to provide up to date contact numbers and emergency numbers in case of illness or emergency.

Please remember that if your child is sick the best place for them to recover is at home.

**BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Breakfast program will begin next week, starting **Tuesday the 10th of February**. Please note that breakfast program will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. Toast and hot milo will be available (at no cost, yes, free!) from 8.15 am every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Students can join us in the student shelter for food and fun to start the school day.

Russell Stubbings
Chaplain
STUDENT ABSENCES

A reminder to all parents of the importance of phoning in absences early on the day of your child’s absence. For your convenience you can leave a message on our absence number 0439 326 767. Our SMS system will send a message out each day after 12 pm to those parents whose child is absent from class without notification. Parents can text or phone the absence number on 0439326767 and state the date, student’s full name and reason for absence.

LATE PASSES

If your child arrives late to school they must first report to the Assistant Principal’s Office with a note signed by a parent or guardian or they can state that a parent has phoned the school.

EARLY LEAVE PASSES

If your child needs to leave school for an appointment during the day they must report to the General Office with a note signed by a parent or guardian. A reminder that your child’s Student Planner is a convenient way to send notes to school. If no note is provided the office staff will check if a parent has phoned the school. For your convenience you can leave a message on our absence line 0439 326 767. Alternatively if you prefer you can phone the school number 52 434444 to advise that your child needs to leave school early. Advance notice of your child leaving school early will be of great assistance to office staff. Thank you for your assistance.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Fridays at Lunchtime (1 pm - 1.30 pm) during 1st Term
- Second hand books and uniforms can be purchased during the above times.
- Money from sales of books/uniforms can be collected from the Uniform Shop during the above times. Please note that any money not collected by the end of Term 1, 2015 will be credited to your family account.

BOOKS: End of Term 2, 2015 will be the LAST opportunity to collect ANY unsold books. Books not collected will be considered a donation to the Chaplaincy Committee and boxed for disposal or sale at a later date.

MCHARRYS BUS TRAVELLERS

An important reminder to all students who travel to or from school on Mcharrys buses. All travellers must have a valid Myki Card or Student Travel Concession Card. Myki cards are available for purchase from various outlets. Application forms for the Student Travel Concession Card and Myki card information brochures are available at the General Office or you can visit ptv.vic.gov.au for further information. If you have any further questions please contact the General Office.

BELMONT LIONS FOOTBALL CLUB

Are you looking for somewhere to play football in 2015? Would you like to be part of a great family orientated club Where every family and player involved is welcome and given a fair go

The mighty Belmont Lions Club is looking for boys and girls for the following age groups:

Auskick (Friday Nights) Under 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s

We would also welcome people who want to be involved in coaching, training and to help with matchday support roles like team managers etc.

REGISTRATION DAY IS SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2015
FROM 11 am - 2 pm
AT WINTER RESERVE, GLYN STREET, BELMONT

Discounted memberships available for all age groups if paid on the day

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND DRINKS PROVIDED

For further details or enquirers please contact our Junior Football Co-ordinator: Brendan Smith Email: brendan448@hotmail.com

YEAR 8 AND 9 TASMANIA CAMP

DATES: Monday April 27th to Saturday May 2nd, 2015

We are pleased this year to offer a trip to Tasmania to all our students currently in Year 8 or Year 9. In the past we have offered a Tasmania camp to Year 8’s, followed by the Central Australia Camp option to our Year 9’s. However, last year due to declining numbers of students at all year levels, the decision was made to offer the two camps in alternating years, to both year levels. This allows all students to potentially do both trips. In 2014 students were offered the opportunity to do a Central Australia tour.

The total cost of the Tasmania camp is $900. A full itinerary of the camp is enclosed.

Further information will be distributed at our information Evening on Tuesday 10th of February at 6pm in the Auditorium.

Payments:
$300 deposit (non refundable) is required by Friday February 20th. The remaining amounts outstanding will be due in two payments of $300 each on Friday March 3rd and Friday March 20th, 2015. Please contact the General Office to arrange alternative payment schedules if required.

Janette Bennett
Camp Co-ordinator

CANTEEN NEWS

Hi, - We have specials below:

Homemade Burgers Tuesday $4.90
Pasta, homemade Bolognaise sauce - Thursday Mini Hawaiian Pizza and Oak meal deal
Thursday - sml $4. lge $5
Sausage roll and Oak meal deal Friday - sml $4. lge $5

Remember - Order lunch to avoid disappointment

CANTEEN HELPERS ROSTER—TERM 1 2015

Thank you to all helpers who have volunteered their time in the Canteen

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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Monday 9th February</th>
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<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Julie Flintoff</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Kim Hogue</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Kylie Chilvers</td>
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<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Cathy Coonan</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Rhiannon Whiltord</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th February</td>
<td>SWIMMING SPORTS</td>
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<td>Friday 20th February</td>
<td>Kim Lim</td>
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dates: Monday April 27th to Saturday May 2nd, 2015

this year so far. It is greatly appreciated by the both of us! If anyone else would like to volunteer to help in the Canteen please call in to the Canteen and see us or give us a ring we would love to have a chat.

Linda and Elaine