PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Peter Kleindienst – Retirement

Long term staff member Peter Kleindienst retired from the Department of Education and Oberon High School on Friday 6th February. Peter had been a staff member at Oberon since 1983 and held a number of positions of responsibility including Physical Education Manager, Camps Co-ordinator and House leader. He will be missed by staff and students alike. I wish Peter all the best in his well-earned retirement.

Bob Hillman

Year 12 students and their parents had the opportunity on Tuesday 10th February to listen to English Chief Examiner Bob Hillman discuss the secrets of being successful in VCE. I have heard Bob speak for the past three years and he always leaves the audience with a very clear and powerful message. For students to be successful in VCE they must be honest with themselves in terms of how hard they work and how committed they are to achieve success. Bob emphasised the importance of not only finishing Year 12 but also how success at this year level not only increases the options available in terms of University courses available but also future long term employment opportunities.

Many of our Year 12 students are in a terrific position to achieve very good results at the end of the year after undertaking a Unit 3-4 sequence in 2014 and the large majority achieving results in the subjects studied well above the state average of 30. Many of the students achieved results well into the high 30’s with three students achieving results in the mid to high 40’s placing them in the top two percent of students in the State.

The school will be working with our students to implement a number of strategies that Bob suggested which will help them achieve results well above what they could expect.

Swimming Sports

It was great to see so many students in attendance at and participating in the House swimming sports on Thursday 19th February at Kardinia Pool. Well done to all involved and especially Mr Rob Neal who organised the sports. Results of the swimming sports including the Champion House and Age Group Champions will be announced at the next Whole School Assembly.

Year 7 Parent Evening

It was nice to meet a number of the parents of our current Year 7 students on Wednesday 18th February at our Year 7 Parent Evening. It was great to hear the many positive stories of how well the Year 7s have settled into their secondary schooling at Oberon High School.

Parent Payments

You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents. In response to the report's findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its Parent Payment Policy. As a result of any changes to the Department's policy, we will work with our School Council to update our own policy.

We don't expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance. The Department's Parent Payment Policy is what we use to guide us in deciding what we will ask you to pay each year. We regularly review our own Parent Payment Policy, in conjunction with our School Council. Our aim is to ensure our policy meets parents' expectations, while also ensuring that all of our students are able to participate in the programs we offer. Our policy sets out what we ask you to pay to support your child's learning, such as books and stationery, and what we ask for optional extracurricular activities. Our policy also sets out what we ask parents to make in the way of voluntary contributions, and where these funds will be directed (for example, to assist with new building and grounds works, or purchasing library and sports equipment.) As always, if you have any queries, or would like to discuss how the school can support you in financial matters, please call Lea Gilliland (Business Manager).

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 43 4444 as nominations are due to me by Monday 23rd February at 4 pm. If we have 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 Visitors

A reminder that Parents/Guardians must enter through the main entrance from car park and 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. Please also note that there are sign posted parking restrictions in place in this area. If your son/daughter is riding a bike to school they need to wear a helmet for their safety as this is the law.

Tim McMahon

OBERON HIGH SCHOOL
2015 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 9th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 23rd February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Thursday 26th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of Ballot</td>
<td>Friday 6th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Council meeting to elect Office Bearers</td>
<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Oberon High School
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday 23rd February 2015.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Tim McMahon
Principal

IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations will be held at School on Thursday 5th March.
Consent forms need to be returned to school even if your child does not require the immunisation.

Year 7 Students:
• Gardasil (Human Papillomavirus)
• Chicken Pox (Vaccella)
• 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 42156962. or visit immune@barwonhealth.org.au.

YEAR 7 STUDENTS
IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES
Please mark in your diary
Week 4  
Tuesday February 24th  School Photographs
Week 6  
Thursday March 5th  Immunisations for Year 7 boys and girls
Week 7  
Monday March 9th  Labour Day Public Holiday
Week 8  
Tuesday March 17th  School Athletics Sports (Landy Field)
Wednesday March 18th  Year 7 Camp (Camp Wilkin, Anglesea)
Thursday March 19th  
Friday March 20th  

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 on Thursday March 5th. 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 must be in full school uniform with jumper. Year 12 students must have VCE tops.
Australian Defence Force (ADF) Recruiting Visit

We have arranged for representatives from Australian Defence Force Recruiting to visit the school on Thursday, 12th March for a 1 hour presentation between 9-30 and 10-30am. The session will be held in the Auditorium. The session is aimed at students in Years 10-11-12 who may be interested in, or just wanting to learn about the job, training, apprenticeship and further study opportunities available through the Australian Defence Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force). The presentation will cover – ADFA, Officer Training, Trades & Apprenticeship, Non-Technical Roles, One Year Roles and the Work Experience Program for students in VCE.

If your son or daughter would like to attend this session please ask them to see Mr Lynch in the Careers Room.

Construction Industry Induction Training (White Card)

If you are in Year 10, 11 or 12 and are contemplating a Work Experience Placement; VCAL Work Placement or permanent or part time employment in the Construction Industry as either a Carpenter, Cabinet Maker, Bricklayer, Painter/Decorator, Plumber, Electrician, Landscaper or General Labourer then you must hold a ‘Work Safe in the Construction Industry’ card (also referred to as the ‘Construction Industry Induction Card’ or ‘White Card’).

The school cannot legally organise for you any work experience program or work placement on a building or related site if you do not have this card.

Students undertaking a VET course in ‘Building & Construction’ and related fields often complete the requirements for this card as part of their Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) competency early in their program.

Once again, this year the school has arranged for a trainer from the CFMEU to come to the school to conduct this training program for our students. The anticipated cost will be about $60.00 per student. The same program offered by some other training providers early this year was $125-00.

The dates for this training are Tuesday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 28 between 8-45am and 3-30pm (only one day is required).

If your son or daughter wishes to undertake this program please ask them to see Mr Lynch in the Careers Room by Wednesday, March 25th to record their interest.

This will be the only opportunity students at Oberon will have for the year to do this training and gain this certificate, it should be undertaken by any student wanting to do, or are thinking they might do a work experience or work placement during the year on a building site, or they are intending to try and obtain some permanent or part time work on a building/construction site (labouring).

This training is a legal requirement under OH&S and any employer taking a student onto a building site without the student having completed this OH&S Construction Industry training (regardless of their relationship with the student) could be leaving themselves legally liable if an injury is sustained.

Wayne Lynch
Careers Department
Welcome to the German Language Assistant
Timo Biss from Kiel in Germany arrived at Oberon last week. Timo is one of seven DET German Language Assistants in Victoria and Oberon is fortunate to share Timo with North Geelong SC for the entire year.

Welcome to Exchange Student
Ferdinand Hutschenreuter from Passau in Germany arrived at Oberon this week for a ten week exchange. He is from Bavaria and will stay with the Parkinson family. Ferdinand is here on the AGTV/BJR exchange program.

German Sister School Trip 2015-2016
Expressions of interest are now open for the next round of exchange with schools in Marburg, Germany. Students studying German in Years 8, 9 and 10 can apply to participate. An information evening will be held at Oberon on March 16th at 7pm for all students and families who are interested. Contact Frau Ray for further information.

Autobahn Project for Years 7 & 8 German Students
On March 2nd students in L7A, C7A and T8A will be participating in a German language game during periods 2 & 3. This activity will run from 10am until 12 noon and will take place in the gym. Oberon students will be participating along with students from North Geelong SC. The game will be run by an international visitor, Jan Quilitzsch, the German Advisor from the Eva Schwemmer and the Goethe-Institute. Oberon is fortunate to be hosting this event, one of only three in Victoria.

BJR Exchange
German students in Years 9 & 10 can apply to travel to Bavaria for 10 weeks during November to February. See Frau Ray for additional information.

SAGSE Hosting
Host families are needed for this Scholarship Exchange Program. Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 who study German can apply to host a student and then they will automatically receive an interview for one of the prestigious scholarships to Germany. See Frau Ray for additional information.

Karneval 12th -18th February
German classes learnt about this festival during the week. Here are some pictures of L9A getting into the Karneval atmosphere along with Timo!
BELMONT LIONS SPORTS CLUB

Belmont Lions Sports Club is looking for netball players for their U13 and U17 sides for the upcoming season commencing on Thursday March 5th at 5 pm at the Belmont Sports Ground in Kidman Avenue.

Any queries please contact Tim on 52 43 7393 or Mobile 0447 885 057.

GEELONG WELSH LADIES CHOIR

The Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir was established in 1998 and is the only female Welsh Choir in Australia and have completed tours of Wales and New Zealand.

We are looking for more choir members to join our friendly group. Rehearsals are held in Highton each Wednesday from 7-9 pm. New members are welcome to come along to one of our practices. No auditions required, just a love of singing and ability to sing in tune.

If you would like to find out more about the choir, please visit www.geelongwelshlc.com.au.

We can also be found on Facebook, where you can see some of our performances. Please contact Judith Bracewell, GWLC Secretary on 5245 8249 to discuss further.

Applications are now invited for the 2015 Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

Regional Section
$2,000 First Prize
Three x $1,000 Geelong Chamber Music Society Runner-up Prizes

Eligibility
Local classical solo instrumental musicians
Open to applicants aged up to and including 18 years of age as at January 1st 2015
Reside or currently a full time secondary student or study with a music teacher in the Geelong area
Required standard of entry is Grade 6 AMEB or equivalent

Auditions – Sunday May 17th, from 9:30am
Regional Finals – Sunday June 14th, 2pm
First Prize winner will perform at the Finals Concert on Sunday August 23rd, 2pm

Applications close Friday April 24th 2015

For more information or an application form –
Email - marian@gpac.org.au
Phone – 5225 1264 (limited times)
Website - www.aycm.org.au (download forms or apply on-line)
Facebook - www.facebook.com/ australiayouthclassicalmusiccompetition
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.

LUNCH

Students need to be responsible for bringing their lunch each day. They need regular fuel for energy. This means a healthy lunch and snack every day at school. This may be lunch from home or purchased from the Canteen which provides a healthy selection.

If your son or daughter forgets their lunch they can come to the office before school, at Recess or at Lunchtime to call their parent. If parents are unable to bring lunch or money to school they can pay for a canteen lunch by credit card over the phone.

Please note: Lunch passes can no longer be booked up.

BELLAUNIFORMS
OFFICIAL UNIFORM SUPPLIER TO OBERON HIGH SCHOOL
162 MOORABOOL STREET GEELONG
Mon-Frid: 9 am till 1 pm
Email: bellarine@noone.com.au
Phone: 52 219199