Student Focus

Introducing Grant Perry, a year 7 student who is enjoying his education. Grant’s favourite subject is Technology Mandatory because he enjoys thinking through practical problems and making things. At school he is working on creating a board game and at home he is currently making a set of wooden drink coasters.

When he gets to choose elective subjects he wants to do Technology Wood and Metal - following his older brothers’ paths.

He says the best thing about Oberon High is meeting and being with his friends. He likes the fact that it is a small school, so you don’t get lost.

Although he’s only been at high school for 7 weeks, the best thing so far has been Rural Cup. Grant represented the school in softball against Molong and had a great time supporting and cheering on other teams during the day.

Recently Grant attended the overnight year 7 camp in Dubbo. He summed it up in one word - “Awesome!”

He has an ambition to be a police officer. He says it’s a good paying job and he would like to be based in a large regional town such as Bathurst or Lithgow.

Grant has an active life so he can indulge in his favourite food - chocolate. He lives on a farm and enjoys the wide open spaces, being able to ride his bike and motorbike. He likes playing basketball, softball and hockey at school.

Grant is a capable young student with a good sense of humour and a strong focus on his future.

Friday 18th - where will you be?

March Market Madness

2pm to 7pm at the school. ALL WELCOME

Fun for everyone!

Closing the gap rap - periods 1 - 4.
Filming the school’s special rap for Schools Spectacular 2016

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (18 March) Take a stand together. Bullying. NO WAY!

our diversity is our strength

Harmony Day

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Every year the issue about how much homework is needed to achieve success in the HSC and to be competitive within the state cohort is discussed with Year 12. I often receive calls from parents about the many time constraints placed on young people today such as sport, part-time work, family duties and other school work. It can certainly be difficult for young people to juggle, however developing consistent routines early in high school is the best way to manage and cope with the rigors of Stage 6 education. We also feel that all students need to have a healthy balance in their lives which includes all the previously mentioned activities with a strong emphasis on communication within the family unit. Parents are well placed to provide ongoing emotional support for students who stressed and in some cases over committed. I would also encourage parents to contact the school and discuss any concerns with their child’s year advisor. At Oberon High School we endeavour to provide consistent homework for all students from Year 7 to Year 12. We encourage students to do around ½ hour of homework a week night in Year 7, increasing by a further ½ an hour each year culminating in around 3 hours a week night for Year 12 students. I would also encourage parents to asked their children about homework and discuss timeframes along with study plans for assessment tasks.

Oberon High School will welcome our new science teacher Mr Peter O’Neill, who will commence on the first day of Term 2 from Nyngan High School. He will now be joined by our newly appointed HSIE teacher Ms Julie Thurgood, who will start on the same day, coming all the way from Coffs Harbour NSW. Both teachers are very excited to be moving to Oberon High School to continue their teaching career in a small rural town. The community will have the opportunity to meet all our new staff early in Term 2 when they formally arrive. Both teachers have already visited our school and were very impressed. I would like to wish them all the best at Oberon High School.

New P&C elected

Last Thursday night after Rural Cup our school’s P&C Association held their annual general meeting for 2016. At this meeting the entire school community acknowledged the tireless work of the P&C committee. I thanked the P&C for their ongoing support of the school and the assistance they have provided students by subsidising laptops for student learning. I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Gayle Voerman who has held the position of president for many years and done a wonderful job flying the P&C flag to help the school. Mrs Voerman stood down due to time commitments elsewhere. Big thanks also to Mrs Cathy Robinson (secretary) and Mrs Mishka Eggins (treasurer) who also stepped down after playing a significant role on the P&C for some time.

At the AGM we welcomed many new faces and after the election process I am pleased to announce that we have a new executive team and a reasonably large number of members for 2016. The president’s position remains unfilled, however the following appointments were made – Vice President 1 – Mr Glen Stewart, Vice President 2 – Mrs Vicki Reynolds, Secretary – Mrs Kerri Stewart and Treasurer – Mrs Rae Corby. Congratulations to these parents on their nomination and election. Our school is looking forward to working closely with the new team to assist students at Oberon High School. Again, thanks to past members for their hard work and efforts over the years.
Rural Cup success in round 1

Congratulations to both students and the staff for their efforts on Thursday 10th March 2016 with Rural Cup. It proved to be one of those special days in education where all students and staff had a common goal and purpose. The sportsmanship and commitment from our students was amazing and Molong teachers made several positive comments about our great school. Well done to the entire school community, helpers, parents and students for the great promotion of Oberon High School. Special thanks must go to Mrs Tania Pringle for her fantastic organisation on a day where 37 sports are played over six sessions for students from Year 7 to Year 12. Mrs Pringle covered all bases and this contributed to the smooth running on the day. Thanks also to the teachers who refereed, cooked the BBQ and worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing lunch for students and staff. The overall result on the day was Oberon High School – 318 points, Molong Central – 208 points. The next battle, against Canowindra High School, will take place on Thursday 26th May 2016. All the best to both staff and students in their quest to go back-to-back-to-back.

March Market Madness - P&C major event

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. This year we have invited students from our local primary schools to come along and join in on the activities to make a real community fair atmosphere.

The aim of the afternoon is to raise money for the school and the P&C, therefore activities do cost money. Activity costs start at 50 cents and students are asked not to bring large sums of money. I would suggest a maximum of $20 for any student which would provide many activities and a chance to buy some popcorn, fairy floss and other food. Last year our staff impressed with their willingness to help the students with their stalls.

I would like to acknowledge the great support the P&C has provided our school through subsidising 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. We are looking forward to see you all on Friday 18th March 2016 at 2.00pm until 7.00pm.
NAPLAN 2016 approaching!
The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is set for Week 3 of Term 2 this year. These national benchmark tests start on Tuesday 10th May 2016 and conclude on Friday 13th May 2016. Information about the NAPLAN tests will be distributed to students and parents in the near future with important dates and information about the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy. Mr Jones will again organise and run NAPLAN ensuring that all students are well prepared, while Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Francis will assist with timetables and support for students who require assistance. Parents have the option to see the principal about any issues which may require a student to be withdrawn or apply for an exemption from the NAPLAN tests. Students in Year 7 and 9 will sit the NAPLAN tests. If you have any issues or questions about NAPLAN, please contact Mr Jones or Ken Barwick on 02 6336 1606.

Closing the Gap special rap
Oberon High School continues to work closely with all students to build self-esteem and a strong understanding of cultural diversity. Our Aboriginal Education Teacher Mr Matt Leven, is leading a group of staff and students, in preparing to perform a rap song aimed at ‘Closing the Gap’ for Indigenous communities. Mr Leven has worked with the students to produce the lyrics, and he is receiving great support in making masks and planning for the filming of the Closing the Gap Rap on Friday 18th March 2016. Miss Windsor with her support team have particularly contributed to making masks. The students involved look forward performing their ‘Closing the Gap Rap’.

The performance will coincide with the National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence. Around 100 Oberon High School students will participate in delivering a message that says they want to close the gap and celebrate cultural diversity. The performance will be filmed by students from Mr Lyle’s photography class and possibly some television stations. The performance is also in support of National Close the Gap Day on Thursday 17th March 2016. Students will deliver their message through rap using a didgeridoo beat box composition written specially for the performance by indigenous musicians from the conservatorium. The resulting film clip will be submitted to the 2016 Schools Spectacular. I would like to congratulate the entire student body involved and especially Mr Leven for his tireless work and efforts with indigenous education and the important message which is being delivered on the day. Well done to all involved!

Western Region selections for two students
Congratulations to both Georgie Rich and Emma Oxley who have recently been selected in the Western Region Swimming and Western Region Girls Hockey teams respectively. Georgie has continued to impress in the pool and she has backed up her great efforts from last year. Emma has worked extremely hard over the past year and has been rewarded with her selection in what is a very competitive team and sport at state level. The Western Region girl’s hockey team won the state title two years ago and made the semi-finals last year. It is a special achievement to make this team where the player pool is exceptional. Well done to both Georgie and Emma. All the very best at the state titles during Term 2.
Making online payments are now possible

Make Online Payments – 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 this 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 students name, and class and reference number, OR
- the students 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.

There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number these are not used at our school, please leave 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.

Making online payments are now possible

What’s Happening

Friday, 18 March - Filming Closing the gap rap - periods 1-4 - contact Mr Matt Leven
Friday, 18 March - March Market Madness - 2pm-7pm at the school - ALL WELCOME
Tuesday, 22 March - Butterfly effect - program for girls year 7-9 - contact Ms Amber Hibbert
Friday, 25 March to Monday, 28 March - Easter break
Tuesday, 29 to Thursday 31 March - College 1 Preliminary exams
Wednesday 30 March - Info session on Cyber Crime - 6pm - contact Mr Craig Luccarda
Tuesday, 29 March to Monday 4 April - mid-course exams HSC courses
Tuesday, 5 to Friday 8 April - ASPIRE - contact Mr Craig Luccarda
Friday, 8 April - Last day of Term 1
Monday, 25 April - ANZAC Day - public holiday
Tuesday, 26 April - Staff Development Day
Wednesday, 27 April - First day of Term 2 (students)
Wednesday 27 April - College 1 HSC courses commence
Tell them from me survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

Information and a consent form has been sent home with students. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 23 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

Please Note: If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the form at the back of this newsletter and return it to the school by Wednesday 23 March 2016.

Craig Luccarda
Deputy Principal

Basketball - Western Region CHS

On Monday the 7th of March, the open boys and girls basketball teams travelled to Orange PCYC to compete against other local high schools in the Western Region CHS tournament.

The girls team played Lithgow High, Orange High and Kelso Campus, Denison College in their pool games. Unfortunately, the girls team lost their pool games, going down to Lithgow High 45-2, Orange High 37-4 and Kelso Campus, 33-4. The girls learnt much throughout the day about the importance of defense and creating space, and won their final game against Kandos High School 24-18.

The boys team played Lithgow High, Orange High and Kelso Campus, Denison College in their pool games. The boys played really well but lost to both Orange High and Lithgow, 42-25 and 29-15 respectively. In the next games the boys started to make the most of their opportunities and got two wins against Kelso Campus 48-27 and our fellow Rural Cup competitors, Canowindra High 57-12.

All students are to be congratulated for their efforts throughout the day. They played their hardest and ensured that all games were played fairly and in a competitive spirit, upholding the good reputation of Oberon High. A big thank you for Mr James Lyle who helped organise, motivate and assist with the coaching of the students throughout the day.

Mr Trent Grantham
Basketball Coordinator

VARIETY IN FREE(FALL)

Thank you to all who attended on 1st March. Over $100 was raised which will go towards resources for the performing arts.
KLA Spotlight - TAS

In each newsletter one Key Learning Area (KLA) will report on significant activities. This spotlight is on Technical and Applied Science, Visual Arts and VET.

On the next two pages are some notable things which are happening across the faculty at the moment!

Construction students have completed two hardwood tables which have been delivered to the senior primary area of the public school.

The picture at right shows Alex Raymond, Mark Perry, Thomas Ryan and Brandon Fitzpatrick. Other students who also constructed the tables but were not present when we transported them to the school were Jason Kirkman and Dean Cesarone.

Industrial Technology Timber

Our new college student group have been involved in a simulated industry project where students have had to design, plan and manage their production of two different furniture items. All parts of the projects have now been constructed and a final written project has been produced to evaluate the success of the task after considering essential requirements. The pictures below display Shane Watterson turning the central columns for the Regency style tables, William Denham cutting the cross halving joints and the final completed task.
Photography and Digital Media / Visual Art Work

Nathan Gibbs
Bayden Ham

Emily Harris Crust
Lucy Voerman

Jay Hogan
Bailey “Kim” Armstrong

Sono Fitzpatrick
Shane Watterson

David Boyd
Head Teacher TAS
Year 7 excursion
On the 3rd March we went on our two day excursion to Dubbo. We arrived at Oberon High School at 7:30 AM and travelled to Dubbo, which took about 4 hours.

We stopped at a park to have lunch and stretched our legs. Then we walked up to the Old Dubbo Gaol. We were given a tour by Josh, who told us about the different areas in the gaol and some escapes that were made. We also saw what conditions they lived in at the Dubbo Gaol.

After the Old Dubbo Gaol we got back onto the bus and headed down to Dubbo Zoo. From there we went to Billabong Camp and met the Guides and YAKS (young zoo keepers). We got our tent allocations and set up our sleeping bags.

After dinner we went on a night tour where we met some animals and reptiles. After that we walked back down and past the camp to another area to meet some Australian animals such as koala, wallabies, an echidna and some possums. After the night tour we headed back for some supper, which was strawberry or chocolate milk and a biscuit. After supper it was time for showers and brushing teeth. It was time for bed. We all went to sleep around 9:50 PM and woke up at the crack of dawn. We had breakfast and packed up all of our stuff. After a while the bus arrived and we put all of our stuff onto it. We got on and stopped at the main entrance of the zoo and started a walking tour. We had two animal talks which included the Asian Elephant and the Hippo. After the walks, we had some lunch, souvenir shopping, and headed home.

Thanks to Mr Grantham, Ms Hibbert and Miss Francis.

By Jay Hogan, Grant Perry and Zoe Rowe
Year 7

Checkmate
Student interest in chess has increased recently, perhaps in response to a decisive chess victory in Rural Cup. In an attempt to foster this interest, the library has created a chess corner which will be available to students during recess and lunch.

Now that the sets need not be packed away for class time, students will be able to adjourn their games over breaks. Hopefully, the ready availability of a set will encourage students to coach each other.

The library has plans for 3 chess competitions each term, starting in Term 2

Qualifier
Each term students will play to qualify for Junior and Senior chess teams for Rural Cup, (terms 1 and 2) or maintain their team position (terms 3 and 4). Behaviour bucks will be awarded to each participant and a small (edible) prize will be awarded to the two winners in each division, each term.

One week wonder
Over the course of one week each term student are invited to play five matches with anyone they like, (student or staff, beginner or experienced). The student who wins the most matches will be awarded a certificate and small (edible) prize. Behaviour bucks will be awarded to each participant. Library staff will help arrange matches for students if needed.

Checkmate
The student who plays the most games (competitive or friendly) each term will receive a book prize. This prize will be judged on the “player record book” students fill in, located in the chess corner. The top three players will also be awarded behaviour bucks.
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.
In our last school newsletter we called for helpers in our school canteen. Over the past few years, finding canteen helpers has become increasingly difficult as many parents are working and are unavailable.

Oberon High School is very fortunate to have a fully operational canteen five days per week where a lot of other schools only open their canteen on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, due to lack of helpers.

Our school canteen has been running for 70 years providing a valuable service to the students and staff, and providing valuable funds to enhance the education of the students. Please give some of your time to keep the canteen running.

The following table shows a list of days where volunteers are needed between 9.30am and 1.30pm. If you can help and would like to book in just one of these days, please phone Mrs Veronica Kelly on 6336 1606 or Ken Barwick on 0418 629 198, or complete the slip below and return it to the school.

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I, ______________________________________________(name) would like to help the canteen on the following days ______________________, ______________________, _________________________, _____________________ to ensure we continue to support the school and students with a school canteen five days per week.

Please contact me on the following number ________________________________(phone number).

____________________________________________(signed) ____________________________________(date)
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

Information about the tell Them From Me survey and consent form was sent home with students. All students will participate in the online survey unless you complete the form below and return it to the school by Wednesday, 23 March 2016.

More information about the survey and the research is available on the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) website at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

If you do not want your child to take part in the student feedback survey, please complete this form and return it to the school by Wednesday, 23rd March 2016.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student(s) __________________________________________________________

Year group(s) ____________________________

Name of parent/carer _________________________________

Signature of parent/carer _________________________________

Date: ____________