Principal’s Report

**Years 5-12 Presentation Night**
Presentation Night is a celebration of student achievement at our school. Our 2014 Presentation Night will be held next Tuesday evening at a new time of 7.30pm.
Everyone is welcome to come along.

**RE Breakup**
The annual Christmas RE service will be held for primary RE students next Wednesday at 10.00am at St Joseph’s Church. Students who do not participate in RE will be catered for at school and fully supervised.

**How to beat the student brain slump this Christmas holiday period**
Later in the newsletter is an article released by the Education Department with suggestions for keeping children’s learning going over the holidays.
Students deserve a good break to relax and refresh before beginning school again in the New Year. However teachers have long recognised that some students lose a lot of ground over the holidays, particularly the younger ones. Books for Christmas are always a good idea particularly if the children can read these themselves. Joke books can entertain the whole family on those long trips as well as keep reading skills fresh (if you can stand the jokes!). I personally found family quizzes, spelling competitions and tables’ tournaments also whiled away long trips.

**End of Year**
As this is the last newsletter for 2014 I would like to thank my school community for all their input this year. Everyone at our school works with the same goal in mind – to do the best we can for our students. My staff, teaching and non-teaching, have worked very hard this year settling into the new surroundings.

We are farewelling three staff this year. Casey Stoeter is leaving us to take up an appointment in Mildura. We wish Casey all the best for the future and thank him for the time he has spent with us. We are also farewelling Jacqualyn Dowell and Sara Jenner both of whom are taking family leave. We wish Jac and Sara every happiness with the new additions to their families.

I am proud of the students at Ouyen P-12 College; they represent Ouyen extremely well on all occasions and have also worked hard this year. Geoff and Shirley Amos, Terry Richardson, our School Crossing ladies, School Council and Parents Association have all worked tirelessly for the school this year and I thank them very much. Thank you also to our volunteers, the CWA ladies, MTH&CS and parents who have assisted in any way.

**School for Years 1-12 for 2015 begins on Thursday January 29th. Prep students begin on Monday February 2nd.**

Merry Christmas everyone have a Safe and Happy Holiday

Leanne Dawes
Principal

Final day of school is Friday, December 19th with a finishing time of 2:30pm.
DRUM AND GUITAR LESSONS:

To all those who have signed up for drum and guitar lessons - we have been successful in obtaining tutors for both instruments. Parents may expect a phone call from the respective tutors in the coming weeks to make personal contact and explain arrangements. We are very excited to offer this opportunity and encourage those who are interested but have not signed up yet, to please do so. Lessons will begin in early Term 1, 2015.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:

We are looking for volunteers to man the kiosk for the first sheep sale in 2015.

This sale will possibly be held on January 15th.

If you can work or cook please contact the school or Michelle Morrish.

FOR SALE

Ouyen P-12 College
School Dress - Size 10
In excellent condition
$30
Ring Shelley Woodall - 50921384

SRI:

The annual SRI Christmas celebration will be held at 10:00a.m. on Wednesday, December 18th in St. Joseph’s church, Oke St. Family and friends are welcome to come along and share in the Christmas story with the children. The SRI teachers would like to thank students for their participation in classes throughout the year; the school staff for their co-operation through all the changes made by the Education Department this year; and local church groups for funding the cost of the children’s activity books. Have a happy Christmas.

Mrs. Vine, Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Poole

BASKETBALL:

Just a reminder that basketball is on Monday, December 15th to finish the first half of the season with Presentation Evening on Tuesday. Same times, same place, different day.

LOST PROPERTY:

Do you know where your child’s school jumper is? We have a huge tub of clothing in the Lost Property Tub which is situated in the P-4 area.

Unless this clothing is claimed it will be given to St Vinnies next week.

Please come in and reclaim your child’s uniform.

They are not cheap to replace.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”

Charles Dickens (A Christmas Carol)
PRESENTATION EVENING
Years 5-12
Ouyen Community Centre
Tuesday, December 16th
7:30pm (Please note new starting time)
Students must be in uniform and will be seated in Year level groups.
Parents, grandparents and community members are all welcome to help celebrate the successes of 2014.

Thank you to Mrs Latta and her 2015 Year 10 Agriculture students for the work they did in the quadrangle during Early Start.
VTAC
Monday, December 15th, 7am:
VCE results and ATAR available online

Monday, December 22nd 2014 12 noon
Change of Preference Closes

Monday, January 19th
VTAC First round offer released

Thursday, February 5th
VTAC Round 2 offer released

SATAC
Monday, January 5th 2015
Deadline for existing applicants to change their preferences to most courses and still be guaranteed equal consideration

Thursday, January 15th
Main January offer round for semester 1 2015

Thursday, January 29th
SATAC Late January offer available

Tuesday, February 3rd
SATAC February offer available

**Proposed Work Experiences Dates for 2015**
Year 11 – Monday 13th – Friday, July 17th
Year 10 – Monday 10th – Friday, August 14th

Students may also undertake work experience during the holidays in Term 1, 2 and 3, but not during the holidays at the end of the year.

**Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences**
**Medicine and Health Course Wizard**
We have created a new tool to assist students in selecting which undergraduate course in medicine, nursing and health sciences is right for them. By clicking ‘show me all my course options’, students are asked to select their year 12 subjects and ATAR score range to filter the list of prospective degrees they are eligible for at Monash.

Visit the website at: [med.monash.edu/ugrad](http://med.monash.edu/ugrad)

**Apprenticeship Vacancies - Mildura**
3 first year heavy Vehicle Mechanic
Resume and cover letter outlining interest in apprenticeship is required
Trial work experience will start shortly with apprenticeship commencing in February 2015.
Contact for more details:
Sally Shelly (Apprenticeship/Traineeship Consultant)
Murray Mallee Training Co. Ltd
Phone: :50229420
Email: sshelly@mmtc.com.au

Sue Sly
Careers Coordinator

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**Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays**

*Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.*

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed.

And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It’s also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students’ learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a ‘tap’ to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school, however, that ‘tap’ is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose ‘tap’ stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose ‘tap’ may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn’t be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge booklists, visit:
Thank You: To our College’s parents, guardians, friends, staff, and students who have assisted Parents’ Association throughout the year – with catering, administration, sheep sale duties, attending meetings, providing ideas, and for general support. We have contributed around $16,000 to the school this year in equipment and programs. A detailed report is in the College magazine.

Next meeting: Monday, February 9th, 2015. At this stage we’re not sure if it will be an evening or day-time meeting. Dates are on the Ouyen Community Calendar.

Congratulations: To our Year 12 students on your results. Know that there was value in all your hard work throughout your VCE years – academically, socially, emotionally, physically, skill-wise, and intrinsically. You are all different people from it, and will continue to change as you experience what life has to offer you and those around you. Thank you for your contribution to our College’s story. Best wishes for the coming weeks and year.

Farewell: We farewell a number of families and students from year 12 down. Thank you for your contributions to the school – whether in small, occasional ways, regular assistance or large leadership roles – it is all appreciated. We make special mention of Steve Vallance’s work with School Council President roles with the Primary and College identities. These were performed with dedication, skill and wisdom.

We also farewell some staff who will be sadly missed by students and parents, alike. Your dedication and drive in the interests of our children’s education have been highly valued. All the best with your 2015 ventures!

Meeting: We had our final meeting for the year last Monday. There were many discussion points – Mrs. Dawes reflected on progress and laid out some plans for 2015. PA hopes to be on deck in 2015 but our failure to have a quorum (5 parents) at several meetings this year puts our future in doubt. Justine and Raelene both complete their terms of office in March, and a catering team other than the Executive would also be appreciated. We need parents willing to come on board.

Best wishes – to staff and students as you prepare for Presentation Evening

To our new Prep and Year 7 students and families preparing for learning life at Ouyen P-12 College

Congratulations – To the P-4 students and their teachers on a fine set of performances at last week’s concert.

- To all who received special awards at the P-4 Concert. PA is pleased to provide the You Can Do It awards for each class. PA originally funded the program several years ago at its own initiation.

- To those in Years 7 – 12 who will receive the awards for 100% Attendance (4) and 99.7% (3) funded by Parents’ Association. Although it is not easy to be at school most of the time, we were informed that a great many students attended over 98% of the time – a simply wonderful achievement.

Catering: Thanks to all who provided food and their time to help make a delicious afternoon tea for Nancye Munro’s 90th birthday last Saturday. All appreciated.

Parents Victoria – Is there for all Parents/ guardians to access. Check out the PV website for all sorts of information and updates. It has information from the DET about EMA, Schoolkids Bonus, Bully Stoppers and more, plus the recent on-line conference and issues receiving attention. www.parents victoria.asn.au

Best wishes to all for a holiday season to treasure. Enjoy some special times with your precious children. See you in 2015.

Justine Cresp
President

Raelene Vine
Secretary

LIBRARY - OVERDUE BOOKS:

There are many Library books that have been borrowed and not returned and those students have been given a list.

It would be appreciated if families could check at home (in school bags, under the bed, in the car...) and if found, return before the end of the year.

Families with outstanding books will be charged if the books are not returned.

Thank you.

Bobbie Stacey
Business Manager
PROGRESSIVE KRAV MAGA

BJMA

Venue: Ouyen Community Centre
NB. Should there be a change of venue you will be notified.
4 Hours of Training
Presenter: Matt Mellington
2nd Degree Black Belt in Zen Do Kai
1st Degree Black Belt in BJMA
Progressive Krav Maga

This seminar is for persons 16 years and above and will give the participant skills to assist in dealing with violent situations.

Equipment required:
Comfortable training wear (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, tracksuit pants, leggings, runners)
Water

Start Time: 9:30am
Seminar fee: $100

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
BE QUICK TO SECURE YOUR PLACE
CONTACT: MATT MELLINGTON
PH: 0407 848 567.
E. mav12@live.com.au

Mildura Rural City Council Library Service
January 2015

School holiday program

Looking for something to do these school holidays?
Activities are designed for students currently attending primary school.
Cost is $1.60 per child, per activity. Bookings essential.

Merbein Library
Phone: (03) 5018 8361
Tuesday 6th January 2015
1:30pm - Rocket off on an adventure
Thursday 8th January 2015
10:30am - Adventure time characters
Tuesday 13th January 2015
1:30pm - Cup people and creatures
Thursday 15th January 2015
10:30am - Minecraft treasure hunt

Merbein Library
Phone: (03) 5018 8366
Tuesday 13th January 2015
11:00am - Button tree
Wednesday 14th January 2015
2:30pm - Scarecrow
Thursday 15th January 2015
11:00am - Adventure time friends
Friday 16th January 2015
2:30pm - Minions
Tuesday 20th January 2015
11:00am - My house picture frame
Wednesday 21st January 2015
2:30pm - Minecraft torch and sword
Thursday 22nd January 2015
11:00am - Angry bird thingy
2:30pm - Science adventures (Free)
Friday 23rd January 2015
2:30pm - Owl memo holder

A.S. Kenyon Library, Red Cliffs
Phone: (03) 5018 8360
Tuesday 7th January 2015
2:00pm - Activity 1
Wednesday 14th January 2015
2:00pm - Activity 2

Mildura Library
Phone: (03) 5018 8350
Tuesday 13th January 2015
10:30am - frozen treasure house
2:30pm - Aliens in space
Thursday 15th January 2015
10:30am - Fancy fish
2:30pm - Minecraft selfie
Friday 16th January 2015
10:30am - Lucky dip craft fun
Tuesday 20th January 2015
10:30am - Minecraft selfie
2:30pm - Fancy fish
Thursday 22nd January 2015
10:30am - Aliens in space
2:30pm - Frozen treasure house

Lego Fun
Lego sessions are free. Bookings required
Merbein Library
Wednesday 14th January 2015 - 2:30pm
Wednesday 21st January 2015 - 2:30pm

Merbein Library
Wednesday 7th January 2015 - 1:30pm
Wednesday 14th January 2015 - 1:30pm

A.S. Kenyon Library, Red Cliffs
Tuesday 13th January 2015 - 2:30pm