



**December 11th
2020**

Fuller Street.
Phone: 50921182
Mobile :0488470929
Fax: 50921185
ouyen.p12@education.vic.gov.au
www.ouyenp12college.vic.edu.au

Principal's Report

End of Year

Our final school day for students is on Thursday December 17th. The day will finish at 3.15pm. This will be our last newsletter for the year.

Presentation Night

Our Presentation night will take place on Tuesday night, in a similar format to the Primary Concert. We know things have looked a little bit different this year, and we hope this is the best way to include all of our school community. I'd like to thank the staff and students who have been working incredibly hard to put on both events, as we know their significance in the school calendar.

Year 9 Leaders & Mentors Day

Our Year 9 students participated in a Leaders & Mentors day on Thursday featuring many local leaders of our community. Students had the opportunity to listen to guest speakers talking about their own journeys and on the importance of contributing to our local community. We thank our guest speakers for their time as we know how precious it is.

Colour Run

The Year 9 Community class have organised a festival and colour run for the students on Monday to celebrate the school year. It looks like being a warm day which will be a relief for the students, and particularly the staff who are participating in the ice-bucket challenge.

Mrs Geary

We are farewelling a few staff at the end of the year, but I would specifically like to acknowledge Mrs Dawn Geary who will be taking leave in 2021. Mrs Geary has been an integral part of Ouyen P-12 College and before that Ouyen Primary School. We wish her all the best and thank her for years of effort and dedication.

Thanks,

Fel Cua

Acting Principal

**Happy School
Holidays!**

Students return
Thursday January
28th

Granary

2020

If you would like a School Magazine this year
please pay \$12 to the office by next Tuesday
(Dec 15th).

\$12 each



Year 7 Celebration Day

On Monday, the Year 7s took off to Mildura for their class Celebration Day, with Miss Woodall, Mr Magnisalis and Miss Grant. The day was jam-packed with activities, starting with Roller Rama roller-skating, Woodies Gem Shop giant maze, cave and lunch (highly recommended for a delicious feast), putt-putt, dodgem cars and tenpin bowling. It was great for the teachers to be able to teach some students new skills they had never experienced, and the students worked well together to teach each other their skills, work in groups and participated in all activities. Lots of fun was had by all!



YEAR 7 SCIENCE - SOIL YOUR UNDIES

During Term 4, the Year 7 Science class joined a program conducted by the University of New England to take part in a program titled 'Soil your Undies'.



The aim of the program was to investigate soil health and how it impacts upon the growth of plants. As part of the unit, the Year 7 group tested the pH of soil from various locations around the school, studied the composition of the soil using a microscope, investigated the layers that form in soil and then attempted to grow seedlings in the different soil types.

After investigating a range of soils, the best location for the burial of undies decided by the group was the garden at the front of the General Office. The undies were buried for nearly eight weeks.

THE ORIGINAL UNDIES



BURYING THE UNDIES

COLLECTING AND CONDUCTING SOIL TESTS



DIGGING UP THE UNDIES



THE FINAL RESULT



Writing Workshops

Last week some students were selected for an extension writing session with published author and writer, Alan Wright. Due to COVID, the sessions took place over Zoom, but he was so engaging you could have sworn he was in the room with us! Alan spoke to students about their writing and his approach to the craft, gave them individual feedback on how to improve their writing and advice to inspire them to continue their passions. Some of the take-aways of the day included:

- Write like a wolf eats
- Breathe in words as a reader, breathe out words as a writer
- Write from the heart
- Don't ever write about anything you don't care about
- Write what you think the world needs to hear
- Don't ever throw away any writing – you can always go back to it

Alan also commented on how impressed he was with the quality of questions, student attention and that he thought they made the school proud.

Students and teachers were enthralled and it's been pleasing to hear the positive feedback from the opportunity. There may be a chance in the future for Alan to come and visit, so we hope that it can occur and the program can continue. Thanks to PETAA for the opportunity, which was fully funded by the Victorian Government.

If you'd like to check out Alan's work, you can see his work online here:

Living Life Twice (Writing Blog) <https://livinglifetwice-alwrite.blogspot.com/>

Poetry Pizzazz (Poetry Blog) <https://alanjwrightpoetrypizzazz.blogspot.com/>



Primary School Swimming Program

The primary school two-week swimming program took place from Monday 30th of November to Friday 11th of December. Students spent time focusing on learning and improving their swimming strokes and confidence, learning about safety around water and completed some fun activities on the ‘Fun Fridays.’

It was so fantastic to see so much improvement over the two weeks, whether that was students feeling more confident to go under the water, learning to dive or swimming a full lap of a stroke they hadn’t mastered before, each student should really be proud of their individual achievements.

On Friday 4th December, the Preps and Grade 4 & 5’s had their Fun Friday together, with the older students assisting the Preps to complete water activities. The Grade 4’s and 5’s were very encouraging and helpful with their Prep students and the Prep’s really enjoyed their company – well done to all students involved!

A huge thanks to Amanda Foster who was our bus driver for the fortnight and also worked with the ‘Shark’ group. Thanks also to Mrs Lonergan, Mrs Pryse and Mrs Marshall who taught some lessons and braved entering the water to assist the students! Lastly, thanks to Miss Manley, Miss Amos, Mr Parsons and Maddy who attended some of our Fun Day sessions.

Hope all students have an enjoyable summer break and remember how to be safe around water!

Mrs Cua

Ouyen P- 12 College Council

Meeting – School Council met person-to-person this week, and thoroughly enjoyed the catch up. Plans are in place for a great deal of work to be done on buildings and in grounds over the summer break. There will be some painting done in the Community Centre; minor work done on some school houses and around the school; a great deal of tree canopy work and shrubbery removal to meet fire safety requirements; and some fire safety upgrades on the Community Centre. Fresh play sand/ dirt will be coming, along with a considerable amount of woodchips/ mulch material.

A lot of planning has occurred to enhance learning opportunities for 2021, along with well-being initiatives. We will kick start 2021 with a good, hard re-evaluation of our Vision and Values [which was halted by COVID this year]. Council has been challenged to dream big for our school. We have begun investigating possibilities for a large covered court/ play area. We hope you will support us in this.

Farewell- to our Year 12s, a few other students who are moving on, some families, and a number of staff. Thank you all for your contributions. I particularly note Mrs. Geary who has served our school community for 30 years. Dawn has been an extremely dedicated and successful educator who has guided and encouraged hundreds of youngsters – THANK YOU – and best wishes for more restful times ahead.

Council 2021 – During February, there will be a call for nominations to Council. We know there will be a couple of vacancies. Please consider whether you’d like to join Council as we look to a new era at Ouyen P- 12 College. Council also acknowledges the input of Peter McNair during his time on Council. Peter brought good knowledge, wise counsel, and a different viewpoint which was greatly appreciated. We extend best wishes to Peter in his expanding police role in the community.

Congratulations – to our students and staff on getting through the year. Thank you for persevering, for being creative, for doing your best, and learning many things along the way. Congratulations to all who are recognised for special efforts and achievements throughout the year. Our COVID style concert and presentation night programs are greatly appreciated.

Wishing you well for Christmas, New Year, and the summer break.

Raelene Vine

School Council President





