



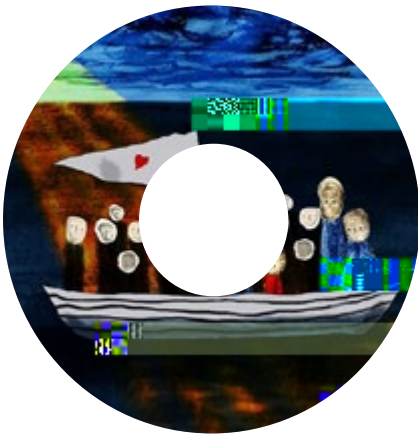
It is hard to believe but we are already in Week 4 of Term 1. Hopefully all of our students are getting into a routine and any anxieties about starting school have left them and they are beginning to feel comfortable and confident about coming to Oxley.

The fears and anxieties many children feel starting either a New Year or new School are absolutely normal. It is when these anxieties continue beyond the first six weeks that parents need to put into place some strategies to help their child. I encourage you to talk to your child's



From Monday 28 to Thursday 31 January, millions of people in the US faced temperatures of -60 degrees Fahrenheit (-50 degrees Celsius). This weather pattern is known as the polar vortex. The polar vortex is a whirlpool of cold air that centres around the arctic. The vortex is known for shrinking

TAKE INSPIRATION



★★★★

Oh Canada

Missy Higgins

"Oh Canada" is a powerful folk song which I believe everyone should listen to regardless of what you usually listen to. The song is telling the story of Aylan Kurdi, who was a three-year-old Syrian boy who was seeking asylum in Canada on a boat with his family, but the boat was crammed full of people and he was sadly killed. The lyrics are extremely powerful and it's also a beautiful song. The song starts with the dialogue from a news station broadcasting Aylan Kurdi's death and follows up with what I believe to be one of the most powerful phrases and that is "He was carried from the water by a soldier." It is so potent with emotion and feeling, and then Missy Higgins continues on with "And the picture paints a thousand different words," and that is so incredibly true. The song is so commemorative and truthful of Aylan Kurdi's death.

After the song was released the family contacted Missy Higgins and told her that the way she told the story of his death was the way that it happened and that is why its blooming with so many different messages saying so many different things in so many different ways. But the song finishes of with "But the body of Aylan being laid upon the sand, tell me how do we live with that?" and my question is with all that's going on in the world how do we live with that?

By Evie Crowley (Year 7)



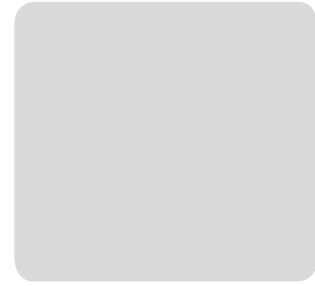
★★★★

Don't Feed the Pop Monster

Broods

Leaving behind their previously glowering, often dark production of synth-heavy alt-pop, Broods' latest release is vibrant, buoyant and oftentimes corny. The challenge not to "feed the pop monster" reflects the duo's desires to shed expectation and write to their more colourful imaginings, veering away from the dangerously uninventive electro-pop of second album 'Conscious' from 2016. Opening number 'Sucker' reinforces this idea, Georgia's husky vocals emerging- "almost lost myself trying to be like someone else". 'Peach', released as a single last year is a perfect representation of this album. Melodramatic piano and multiple auto-tuned vocal layers becomes an explosion of something joyous with the exclamation that "everything's looking peach now".

By Maya Chance (Year 12)



Anh Do

On Valentine's day, I had the opportunity to meet Anh Do at the Opera House. You may have heard of Anh Do from his bestselling book 'The Happiest Refugee' or from his TV show 'Anh's Brush with Fame'. Anh is a Vietnamese born Australian author, actor, artist and comedian. He left Vietnam with his family when he was three due to war torn Vietnam.

My dad met Anh through our business and Anh kindly gave us complimentary tickets to watch his show and for my family to go backstage and meet him. When meeting him you can really see how down to earth he is. What you see on stage is the same you see of stage, the same funny, friendly laid-back person.

Anh is in the middle of his tour 'The Happiest Refugee' and as part of his tour, one of his shows was at the Opera House in Sydney. Anh exploded onto the stage full of enthusiasm and passion. He warmed the audience up with some rapid-fire jokes and funny stories. Then he began to tell his life story and at times you could hear a pin drop and other times the concert hall echoed with laughter. His story was very moving and interesting especially considering the current debate about refugees. Anh and his family have contributed a huge amount to Australia as they wanted to give back to the country that accepted them. Anh's show was an amazing experience, one that I'll never forget.

By Lily Magill (Year 10)

I don't know about you, but I often judge the success of my holidays by the number of fiction books I can read. It is the sense of total relaxation, disconnection from routine and responsibility; a time to wander in a discrete, hypothetical world. These holidays I was absorbed in the recently acclaimed novel, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.



Eleanor is a 30 something woman who is unusual in her work place, reclusive and eccentric, she is a symbol of loneliness yet disarmingly charming or perhaps more quirky than anything else. From the safety of my lounge I was cheering for her and wishing her to overcome each challenge. In truth my empathy was probably more patronising than respectful but I was enjoying the storytelling way too much to really examine the motives behind my entertainment. I'm sure many of you have read and enjoyed this novel which also included some questions for book clubs. One such question awakened my honest reflection; something we ask our students to do often, perhaps rarely expecting it of ourselves. The question simply said;

How do you think you would have treated Eleanor if she had been your work colleague?

It exposed a truth I did not like, that I would have been more likely to enjoy her differences from most of us than to embrace her fundamental human commonalities. I would likely not have reached out to her and despite all my rationalised justifications my actions would have



Fyrir

The fire crackles through the Old Hroldan Inn. Its firescent flames whip against the large lamb leg, skewed on a stick above the fire. The inn is quiet, the only sound beams from the crackling hot flames.

There are two doors located on the far side of the inn on opposite walls. Each door being the opening threshold to two moderately sized bedrooms. In between the rooms, is a bar, with countless bottles of mead

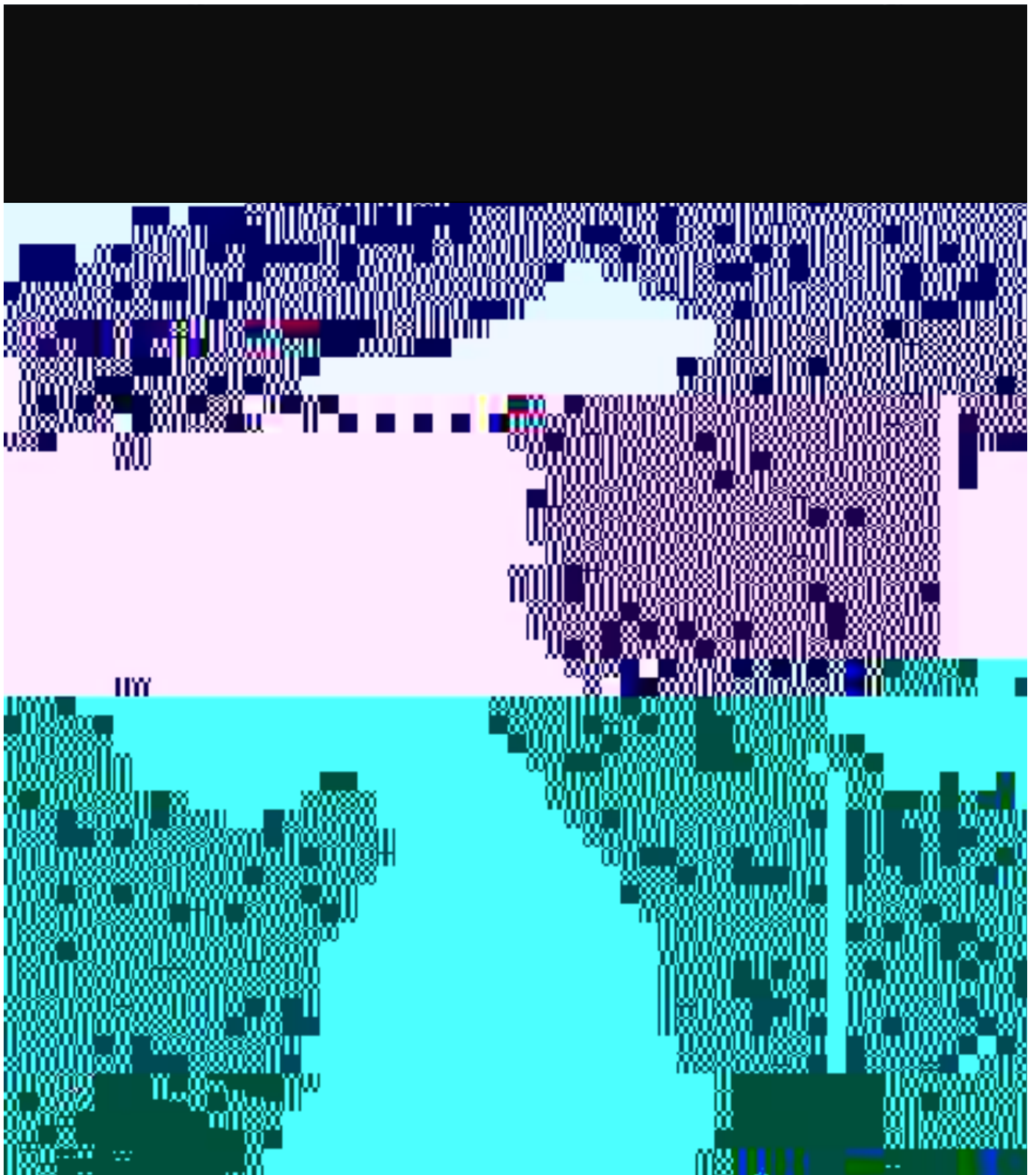


Parent Information Sessions

We have spent time last week with parents at our annual information sessions, touching on some of our key themes for the year. As always at Oxley, our intention is to constantly evolve as a learning organisation, consciously building the partnership with students, teachers and parents as we all work toward our vision of preparing your children for their futures.

Fundamental to the Oxley mindset is the use of our shared language of learning. We consistently focus on:

- the narrative of growth and progression for each learner



Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th March 2019

7.30pm Hoskins Hall, Oxley College

Tickets available at the door by Cash or EFT

Bck 'h Uhnci BY'c]b 'h Y'V]['k]XY'k cf'Xz'
what have you made of yourself since
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I've done a lot of studying so far. I completed my





NEWSFLASH

SHAPE 2018



ONSTAGE 2018

Last week Oxley's 2018 HSC Drama students were the stars of OnStage Programme 1 at the Seymour Centre, Sydney. Onstage is the annual showcase of excellence for Drama students who have been nominated by HSC Markers and then selected for their theatrical excellence through a rigorous process.

Oxley's "?" group performance was presented in the prestigious Programme 1. Only five groups in all of NSW made this programme, with six students of