



# OATLEY WEST Lantern

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**14**  
DEC Reports Home

**16**  
DEC Year 6 Graduation

**16**  
DEC Last Day of Term 4

**29**  
JAN Yr 1—6 Start School  
Term 1—2021



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*The School by the park –  
Great Kids, Great Teachers, Great School!*

## MR NASH'S CORNER

### Presentation Day Address:

*Here we are at the end of the year **AND** what a year 2020 has been! This year will be a historic year for many reasons, and everyone here today, and watching this presentation, have all become part of a world historic event!*

*We must remember how well we have all worked to keep ourselves safe here at home in Australia and we will continue to follow health instructions in the immediate future to keep our beautiful country this way!*

*Let's hope as the world gets on top of this pandemic, we take away all the good things that have come out of this time and put the bad things away behind us.*

*I thank our teachers and all the staff here at Oatley West for their extraordinary efforts during this time.*

*Our school has not missed a beat, and quality learning has taken place during the lockdown period that started in March when we were all learning from home remotely, to when we finally returned to school in May.*

*How do I know this?*

*When you all returned, the playground was strangely quiet, we didn't know what was expected of us, and routines and timetables were very different to what we were used to.*

*As time went on, laughter returned to the playground, laughter and 'buzzing' returned to the staffroom were the teachers gather – kids began to play (in a different way) but the school very slowly returned to a safe space for everyone to belong.*

*Classroom learning, thanks to our teachers, picked up from the remote learning phase and they have all worked so hard to make sure you have not come through this period with any gaps in your learning.*

*We've conducted P&C meetings via ZOOM up until last week, and we are still having our staff meetings over ZOOM even though we are all here at school together. We remain very vigilant of the health requirements the department of education have put upon us and need to follow these 'rules' to make sure you can all attend school, to keep well and to keep us all safe while we are at school.*

## Principal Nash continued

*Our Georges River Principal's group have still not gone back to face to face meetings and meet weekly via ZOOM.*

*We are not sure what restrictions will be upon us in 2021 and I will continue to keep all our community informed as we go along, and prior to us returning in January next year.*

*I would like to leave you with a short poem that resonated with me and I stuck in my diary in May as we were about to return to school:*

*It's called **HOPE***

*If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, Let it be hope.*

*Let it be hope that better things are always ahead.*

*Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times.*

*Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way.*

*Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be ....*

*Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.*

*The poem was written by Nikki Banas*

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone here at school, our families and our community, a great, restful time over the upcoming holidays.*

*Enjoy Christmas time together and get plenty of downtime, rest and recuperation so that we can all return fresh and ready to make 2021 the most positive year that we can at Oatley West Public School.*



**Merry  
Christmas**

## HEADING

We farewell the following teachers and wish them well for 2021:

Mrs Clair Bull to Undercliffe Public School

Ms Deanna Cacciotti to Lucas Heights Community School

Mrs Carina Cavallaro to Penshurst West Public School as permanent Learning & Support Teacher

Mrs Melissa Di Lucchio to St. Anthony of Padua in Austral as a permanent classroom teacher

Mrs Benita Ollerton to Padstow Heights Public School as permanent classroom teacher

Mr Nick Poullos to Holy Saviour school at Greenacre as a permanent classroom teacher

Mrs Jade Tofohe is going to Carlton South Public School as permanent Assistant Principal.

We wish our teachers well in their new ventures and thank them for their contribution to Oatley West Public School, its students and the community. They have all contributed greatly to our school community.

I would like to share our SRC Captains farewell speech from their graduation:

**Dom :**

*Hi, Year 6! How's everyone doing tonight? You all look so amazing! I would just like to start off by saying it's such an honour to be standing up here and talking to you all. Whether you've been a part of the Oatley West community for either 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 years, this speech 100% applies to you.*

**Harry :**

*I want to recognise the year we have all been through, the good the bad and the average. Whether it be strength, wisdom or emotional connection, throughout this year has taught us to excel in new and decisive skills, none of us would have ever expected to participate in. You should all be super proud of yourselves for persevering through this challenging year, from a global pandemic sweeping the world, to toilet paper being rarer than gold. All of us in this room have got through everything 2020 has thrown at us.*

**Dom :**

*One of, if not my favourite things about this group, is the fact that we, as a grade managed to watch each other grow and mature through a global pandemic! You know, I would go as far as to say that our bond has become stronger through COVID-19. This is because our masks have come off (literally and metaphorically) to want to show others our strength. We acknowledged the tough times but also used them to become tougher ourselves which I find very impressive.*

**Harry :**

*We have all worked super duper hard this year, I mean like I've lost count of how many assessments we've done in class and the year hasn't even ended yet! We all 100% deserve this formal to reset, rewind and most importantly HAVE FUN! From Dancing to food, this formal will be a total BLAST, I'm sure we all really need, especially after a rollercoaster of a year like this one.*

**Dom :**

*Growing up with all of you here and being taught by each of these fantastic teachers will be unforgettable. I especially admire our teachers because they do such a good job of keeping us safe and happy 24/7. I am really, truly going to miss all of our teachers, including Miss A and Mr Nash.*

*Mr. Griffith's humour and jokes,  
Mrs. Assad's kind and loyal heart,  
Miss. Rolfe's care, and charisma,  
Mrs. McDonald's contagious smile and calmness,  
Mrs. Ollerton's stories and constant encouragement,  
Miss. Diwell's positivity and wisdom,  
Miss. Aravanopolous's vibrancy and rationality,  
and finally, Mr. Nash's cleverness and support are all the reasons why I think we have been inspired to do our best in stage 3 and not to sound too cheesy, but why we are who we are, and for that, we have each other and teachers to thank.*

**Harry:**

*We all know that there has been a lot of gloom and disappointment this past year. I mean who didn't like the monkey feeling cards in Peer Support. But don't get me wrong I'm sure it was a huge shock to all of us when we found out Peer Support wasn't going ahead.*

**HEADING**

*The important thing is that we should move on from the past and look forward to the future, just take a moment to think about the fun to be had from now, to the end of the year (Aquatopia, graduation and many more exhilarating activities to be experienced), but now is a time to let loose, relax and most of all HAVE A GREAT TIME!*

Thanks to Harry and Dominique for your leadership and to the rest of the SRC Seniors who have adapted and grown over the year. You have certainly become highly independent and supported myself and teachers through a very unusual year.  
Mr Nash



We hope you enjoyed each of the Stage Presentation Day assemblies and the K-2 Christmas Concert via our social media platforms. We wish you could have been present with us on the day but unfortunately, we could not accommodate everyone to be at school due to Covid restrictions. We have done our utmost throughout the pandemic to ensure you've felt part of the school, sharing student works, school events and special days via every platform we have available to us. We learnt quickly all about ZOOM, how to use TEAMS, Class dojo, and have utilised our Facebook page, Website and Skoolbag App to keep in touch with the whole community. Our staff thank you for your understanding throughout 2020!!!



UNIFORM SHOP

VALUE FOR THE WEEK

**RESPECT**

Be polite, cooperative & sensible.  
Treat people as you would like to be treated.  
Accept and celebrate our differences.



*Merry Christmas from all of here  
at Oatley West Public School*



LIBRARY NEWS



**OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS**

There are still a number of overdue loans. If your child has received a notice, could you please help them find their Library books.

If you have any questions, please contact the Library

*Places Library books love to hide: in bookshelves, under beds and behind lounges.*

Rita Fitzpatrick and Holly Elms

## CANTEEN NEWS

The Canteen will be closed on Wednesday 16 Dec for cleaning and stocktake.

It would be appreciated if all outstanding monies owed to the Canteen be paid so we can close our books.

Thank you to Principal Nash, teachers, students and families for all your support during this difficult year. We are grateful for being able to still keep the Canteen open for the kids and they were immensely happy to have lunch time counter service back running again.

We wish you a wonderful and safe holiday break and look forward to 2021.

Anh, Cat and Laronne

## UNIFORM SHOP

**The Uniform Shop is closed for 2020.**

**If you have ordered uniform in the last few weeks and it has not arrived home, please have your child pick it up from the school office. Where uniform items have not been available, parents have been contacted.**

Please consider your uniform needs for the beginning of the new school year. We are not open during the school holidays however if you place an order in the Uniform Mailbox in the next two days, you can avoid very long queues at the start of the new year and your order will assist us with stock requirements. **Orders received will be prioritised.**

**Backorders:** All backorders will be finalised once stock has been received. Parents will be contacted when they are ready to be picked up from the school office. We apologise for this inconvenience.

**Swimming Carnival:** Year 3 to Year 6 students and eligible students from Year 2. The swimming carnival is usually held in the first few weeks of Term 1. If the carnival proceeds, consider supporting your Sports House by purchasing a swim cap (\$5.00) in your house colour.



**Exchanges** will be accommodated on Thursday (when we are open). Please leave exchanges at the school office, in a bag together with details of the exchange (s) required, your child's name and class. All items being returned must be in their original condition and packaging, with tags on. Receipts should be included where possible.

**Plastic Bag Fee** – This fee (\$0.25) will be recommence being charged when/if we are trading face to face.

For all enquiries, please contact Sia Coelho – [owpsuniform@gmail.com](mailto:owpsuniform@gmail.com)

**NB:** Order forms sent by email, will not be actioned.

**Wishing all the families at Oatley West a wonderful and safe Christmas.**

