

## 'Wings'

J.J. Cahill Memorial High School  
school newsletter

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## EXCELLENCE

## RESPECT

## OPPORTUNITY

## 'Wings' Issue 2 Term 1

## March 2014

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Principal's Message	Pages 1-2
Deputy Principal's Message	Page 2
Library News	Pages 3-6
Faculty Reports	Pages 6-9
Careers and SRC Reports	Page 10
AFL Day	Page 12
Welfare Report	Page 13
Year Advisers Report	Pages 14-17
Sport Reports	Page 18
Swimming Carnival	Page 19
Harmony Day	Page 20

## COMING EVENTS

04 April – School Photos  
 09 April – Inter School Chess Tournament  
 11 April – Last Day of Term 1  
 28 April – School Development Day  
 29 April – Day 1 of Term 2 (Students return)  
 01 May – Cross Country Carnival  
 13-16 May- Naplan (Years 7 and 9)  
 2 June – P&C Meeting  
 18 July – Trivia Night at JJCMHS

last week, thank you for your support of our students and your children. It very much helps them when they know their parents are working with the school to ensure they obtain a productive and positive education.

Thank you also to the many parents who have paid all fees and contributions. Those funds assist the school in purchasing equipment early so the students are able to utilise them from the beginning of the year. For any who wish to pay by instalments, please contact the office manager, Ms Prelec, to make arrangements.

## P&amp;C

Thank you to our parents who attended our recent P&C Annual General Meeting in which our office bearers were elected. Congratulations to Julie Gray (President), Mara Kelaiditis (Secretary) and Helen Baziotis (Treasurer). Thanks were extended to our outgoing President, Lily Bull.

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Our P&C is organising a Trivia Night for Friday 18 July to raise funds for our school. It will be in our school hall. If you wish to donate items or have contacts of people or organisations that may be able to donate,

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



## CONGRATULATIONS

To our many representative sport participants. congratulations! We have had volleyball, netball, touch football and basketball teams participating in knockouts this term. Our students always conduct themselves with honour and dignity when they play and this was acknowledged by the deputy principal of Randwick Girls HS when he recently refereed a game at our school. The positive feedback is always appreciated and reinforces what we need to promote across the community. Our students do us proud when they are competing and representing the school. They have good manners, are courteous and they all play fairly.

## THANK YOU

To all our parents and caregivers who have come to our meetings after school this year, including the Years 10 and 11 assessment information night, our welcome to Year 7 BBQ and the parent/teacher interviews held

please let our P&C office bearers know. You may contact them via the School's office and your message will be forwarded. Please book in the date. We will have tables of 10 people. More information will follow.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTRE

Our outdoor learning centre is almost complete (see photo) with the turf being laid two weeks ago. Many thanks to Mr Herd who has been overseeing the construction. I am currently investigating the installation of sails to provide shade in that area, thus enabling lessons to be conducted throughout the year.

Many thanks also to our P&C, whose members organised events, including the drive for personalised pavers, to raise funds for the construction. This was in conjunction with the P&C donation of \$20 each year that our families contribute. Just over 20% of the costs were covered by our P&C. A fantastic effort and very much appreciated.



*Our new outdoor learning centre.*

## HARMONY DAY

Our school celebrated Harmony Day with visitors from Eastlakes Public School and Mascot Public School. It was a wonderful occasion during which we had a formal assembly in which Widyan Al Ubudy (Iraqi migrant and an SBS Journalist) delivered a powerful speech. This was followed by a more relaxed afternoon enjoying food from various cultures, playing games, listening to our students play some great music in the quadrangle and having the option to have faces painted or painting hands with henna. Thank you to all involved for the very positive interactions on the day.

## END OF TERM

With only three weeks remaining this term, it is timely to remind our families that lessons will continue up until and including Friday 11 April. School will resume for students on Tuesday 29 April. I trust that our students will be working hard up until the end of the term and wish our families well for the upcoming break.

Robyn Cowin  
Principal

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### PARENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS



The school has had the privilege of hosting the school community at several events this year. Each time we have been grateful to those who have attended for continuing the educational partnership of our students. These events give us the opportunity to receive valuable feedback from you about issues you feel need attention and with information relating to your child.

The calendar of events began with an Information Evening with Year 10 and 11 families about the RoSA and HSC requirements.

The Year 7 meet and greet BBQ was held in Week 6. This was a great way to welcome new families to the school and for our teachers to meet families. We were all able to introduce ourselves and provide information on current and future classroom learning activities. Mr Drabsch was filled with pride, telling the audience of the successful transition for Year 7 from primary school to high school. Families were provided with a sample of one of our subscription's regarding expectations on attendance and support for families working together with the supervision and framework of the digital world.

More recently the school opened its doors to the whole school community to showcase the facilities and resources with the open afternoon. Past and future students were led by members of our SRC in a tour of the school and had the chance to take part in activities in arts, drama, gym, the weights room and the photography dark room as well as completing science and mathematics activities.

We continue to welcome the feedback you provide us ensuring the school continues on its path to continual improvement and development. On behalf of all the teachers of JJCMHS, we all look forward to continuing the educational partnership we have supporting your child's development.

John Mifsud  
Deputy Principal

## LIBRARY REPORT

### OLD PHONE CHARGERS

Do you have an old charger for an iPhone or Android phone? If you are no longer needing this item, please send it in to help our Library Maker team transform them in to our own charging station, to power up devices and power up learning at JJ Cahill Memorial High School!!



### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

The library provides students with access to computers, wireless internet (for compatible devices), past examinations and study guides, reading for leisure material including novels and magazines and a quiet place to study.

To accommodate student needs and ensure all homework and assignment classes can be completed, the library is open both before and after school, as well as at most recess and lunch times:

Day	Before School	After School
Monday	7.30-8.25	3.10-4.00
Tuesday	Closed due to meeting	3.10-4.00
Wednesday	7.30-8.25	3.10-4.00
Thursday	7.30-8.25	Closed due to meeting
Friday	7.30-8.25	3.10-3.30

*Please note these times are subject to change and any alterations will be announced on Morning Roll Call. If needed students can then telephone home to make alternative arrangements.*

### LIBRARY CAFE

Whilst much of our research, reading and life are online, there is growing evidence of the importance of face to face conversation and communication in making connections, innovating and inspiring creativity!

To embrace this concept, the library team have created the 'JJ Cafe', a space within the library where students and teachers can relax, read a magazine on the school iPad, flick through the day's Daily Telegraph or catch up on the latest news on ABC News 24 - all whilst engaging actively in conversation with others. Teachers too are using this space to collaborate on learning initiatives and share insights in education!

Come and check out this dynamic space before or after school, and start a conversation with the library staff!

A special thanks must be passed on to the McDonalds Foundation who have donated \$500 to the construction of the Cafe Space. You will be seeing the fruits of their contributions in later issues of the newsletter!



### BUNNING'S BBQ – BUILDING A 'FAB LAB' FOR INNOVATION AND INGENUITY AT JJ CAHILL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL!

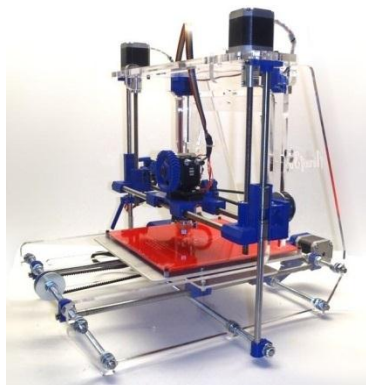
In 21st century Australia we are preparing students for jobs that have yet to be invented with skills that are still to be defined. The currency of the employment market in the 21st century is innovation, creativity and ingenuity. The teachers of JJCMHS are ready to embrace this challenge.

The library team believes the exploration of these skills could be enhanced with the introduction of a 'Maker Space' or 'Fab Lab'. A 'Fab Lab' is a facility where students can explore, invent and create with the aid of

tools such as materials, machinery and new technology. Within this environment students will have the opportunity to become leaders in these fields.

The library team are preparing to introduce a 'Fab Lab' as part of the school library (hopefully in Term 2) but need assistance to equip it with the tools to harness the innovative capacity of students. Possible inclusions will be a 3D printer, tools, knitting needles and computer technologies.

A 3-D  
printer



#### *So how can you help?*

Bunnings in Mascot have supported our application to hold a fundraising BBQ on **Sunday the 30th March**. We need volunteers to:

- Assist running the BBQ on the day (1 hour, 2 or 3 would be amazing!!)
- Purchase sausages and beverages
- Provide supplies of sauce, napkins and other BBQ supplies

If you can assist our efforts in any of the above areas, please contact Laura Anggadi or Joachim Cohen via the office switchboard.

#### **Fab Lab Materials**

With the excitement of your upcoming fab lab in the air, we also need your help with materials. If you have any of the following lying about at home, we would love to have them to inspire, create and more:

- Knitting needles
- Wool
- Fabric
- Offcuts (In good condition)
- Foam
- Lego

Send them in with your child and deliver them to the library!!

## DRIVING LITERACY – HOW CAN YOU HELP?

This year JJCMHS is focusing on the improvement of students' literacy and numeracy skills. As part of this initiative, students are encouraged to read at least 20 minutes every night!

This could be the latest gaming, fashion, rugby or motoring magazine, Clive Cussler's latest Sci-Fi adventure or flicking through an online magazine or e-book on the smartphone, computer or tablet.

To boost the number and quality of the resources we have available for students, the library team has compiled a wish list at the Book Depository from student and teacher suggestions. Instead of passing on that box of chocolates or homemade cake to your child's teacher, purchase one of these gems for a lifelong reminder of your contribution to your child's school and education!

Once you have purchased a title, please send an email to [joachim.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:joachim.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au) so that we can remove it from the wish list. Once you receive the book, send it in with your child and we will place a plaque inside the cover as a continual reminder to the JJCMHS Community of your generosity.

To view the wish list, access this website <http://bit.ly/JJCahillWishlist> or come in to the library and we'll show you!!

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Do you have some spare time? Are you awesome at covering books or the household chores?

We need you! We have heaps of books to be covered and a library to dust, and biscuits, coffee and good conversation to offer....if you have some spare time to contribute towards building your child or grandchild's school, contact the librarian through the switchboard!

Switchboard: (02) 9669 5118

## LATEST BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

We have just placed our first order for 2014!! What's on its way??

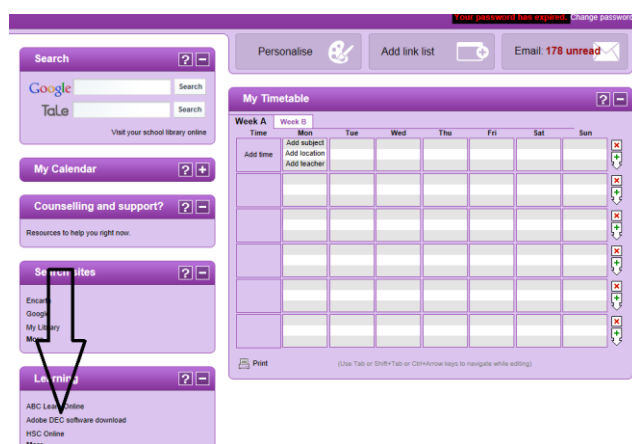




just consumers of information! They are active creators of Movies, Apps and some awesome pieces of photo and conventional art to name just a few of their exploits. To assist students in their creative endeavours the Department has secured the ability for all students to download a copy of Adobe programs such as Photoshop to their personal devices free of charge.

To access the download, students need to log in to their portal at home and then click on the "Adobe DEC Software Download" button (See the diagram below) and then follow the instructions!

These programs are the same as those used by experts in industry and represent hundred of dollars in value, so this is one opportunity not to miss!!



Joachim Cohen  
Teacher Librarian

## ENGLISH/LOTE/DRAMA REPORT

As this is the first English/LOTE/Drama report for 2014, welcome back to JJCMHS for Term 1. It is with great pleasure that we introduce **Mr Marc Sneddon** (English) and **Ms Maria Perez** (Languages). It has been terrific to include our new colleagues into the faculty and they have settled in well to our school community. We look forward to experiencing their excellent teaching and watching them develop as professionals, contributing to the continued effort to bring quality teaching to JJCMHS.

Of course we welcome back all of our students and the hard working team in the English/LOTE/Drama faculty. We all look forward to a positive year in learning. The New Curriculum has begun and Years 7 and 9 are in full swing. Most students will not notice big changes in their day to day learning, but the focus for the teachers has altered and we will be targeting the key

outcomes and learning capabilities as prescribed by the syllabus.

Our Stage 4 Comprehension and Reading program has continued following the trial last year. We believe the data we obtain from these test really help us to target students' learning needs.

Stage 5 is engaging in terrific units of work this term: Representations of War for Year 9 and an Area of Study on Conflict for Year 10 featuring Shakespearean texts.

All the English staff really enjoy bringing Shakespeare to the students at JJCMHS in new and diverse ways. Equally, in the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First World War, our Representations of War unit is an opportunity to reflect and explore how artists, songwriters, poets and authors expressed their experiences of war.

### Stage 6

Years 11 and 12 are big years of learning. We encourage all Stage 6 students to work with their teachers and mentors to build educational relationships that focus on improvement. One of the key tools to success in the HSC is having support and advice that is readily available. Students need to 'check-in' with their teachers and discuss their progress, strengths and weaknesses to ensure they achieve a HSC result of which they can be proud.

## THE WORLD'S WORST GUESSING COMPETITION – WHO IS THIS JJ TEACHER????????



David Gracie  
Head Teacher, English

## DRAMA REPORT

Drama is in full swing this year with our Years 9 to 12 classes engaging in a range of dramatic adventures. Year 9 have commenced their Drama studies with an exploration of the Elements of Drama through improvisation and play building. Our Year 10s, on the other hand, have taken a trip to Italy and have had a lot of fun working with the highly physical and comic Commedia dell'Arte characters.

In Year 11, students have shifted gears learning how to delve deep into their own emotional experiences to create characters that are realistic and sincere. Their skills were demonstrated at our drama night where each student performed a short monologue. Thanks to all the families and friends who came to support the students.

Year 12 are fast approaching the HSC and are multi-tasking with great gusto. Whilst the majority of class time is spent workshopping Bertolt Brecht's masterpieces, students are working hard to ensure that their major works are staying on track.

Finally, I would like to commend Isaac Real for his performance in *Mulan Jr*, presented by Regals Musical Society in Bexley. Mr Fienberg and I had the pleasure of watching Isaac take on the comical role of Chi - Fu. He did himself and the school proud and is a shining example of how students can continue to develop their love of the arts outside of the JJ classroom. Well done, Isaac.

Curtis Jobe  
Drama Teacher

## HSIE REPORT

I would like to start my report by welcoming Mr Brent Wilkinson to the HSIE faculty. Mr Wilkinson has adapted well to the demands of JJ Cahill MHS and is currently teaching Business Studies and Geography. He has shown a willingness to be involved in the school community through the Breakfast Club and often has a smile on his face in and out of classes. I am looking forward to working with him this year.

So far this year, the HSIE faculty has been busy implementing the new programs for the Years 7 and 9 History Australian Curriculum. This means that the courses for these subjects are brand new and have never been taught before. The changes to the History syllabus are significant. So whilst the overall time periods are similar, the actual units being taught are

different. In Year 7 there is a particular focus on History skills which includes the role and importance of archaeologists. This is then followed by two case studies which at JJ Cahill MHS will be Ancient Rome and Ancient China (an Asian world study is now compulsory).

In Year 9, the overall theme is the Making of the Modern World. This involves looking at the period of industrialisation and the rapid changes in the way people lived, worked and thought. This will be followed by a case study on The Movement of Peoples which includes slavery and convict transportation to Australia. The second case study is World Engagement with Asia in the period of 1750 to 1918. The unit is then completed with a compulsory study of Australians at War in WWI and WWII.

Lastly, I would like to mention the recent efforts of a group of students who are actively involved in their school community. Approximately 30 students volunteered on the 7<sup>th</sup> March for the school version of *Clean Up Australia Day*. This involved the students seeking out rubbish in places that may not normally be cleaned in order to make their school a better place. The students are to be commended for their efforts and enthusiasm in being involved. It made me proud to be involved on the day.

Remember to always *Aim for your personal best*.

Cameron Sutton  
Head Teacher, HSIE

## TAS REPORT

This week the Year 11 Hospitality-Food and Beverage students prepared and cooked Bruschetta on Turkish bread. It was an opportunity for the students to gain valuable experience preparing recipes that are modern, tasty and fun to prepare. Each recipe that the students prepare is designed to introduce and reinforce key knowledge and practical skills that mirror those needed in a commercial kitchen.

Year 7 is learning about general technology and safety in the textile room. They have completed a written safety test and used some of the textile equipment already. Soon students will be starting their major project, which is an apron. Once the apron is completed they will use them during practical lessons. All students are doing well at present.





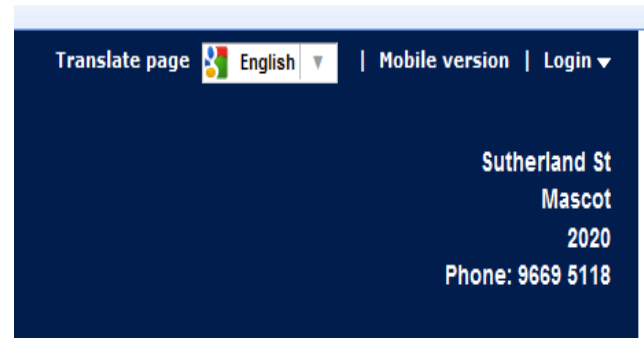
(Above) Year 11 Hospitality and  
(below) Year 7 Textiles.



Rob Mills  
TAS Teacher

## GOOGLE TRANSLATE

The DEC School Website Service team has introduced Google translate for all SWS websites. This will allow users to translate a school's entire website into a choice of 80 languages from a drop-down menu at the top of the site. This feature will help school parents and community members access school website content in their native language, making it easier for them to stay engaged with the school.



## CAPA/PDHPE/LEARNING SUPPORT REPORT

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for teaching and learning at JJCMHS. The Literacy Project which began last year continues into 2014 with teachers focusing on developing the reading and comprehension skills of all students.

At JJCMHS we, as teachers, are always keen to improve our practice and find new and innovative ways to engage students and improve their learning outcomes. This year teachers will be meeting regularly to build, review and develop their strategies for the teaching of reading comprehension. This will see students engaging with similar strategies across all learning areas.

But school is not the only environment in which students can develop these skills. We encourage all parents and carers to encourage their children to engage in reading on a regular basis. To help you, here are two simple strategies to build comprehension skills:

- 1. Before reading a text** – for example a magazine article, novel or newspaper article – ask the reader three things:
  - What is the TITLE?



- ANTICIPATE (or predict) what the text will be about.
- Why are you reading? What is your PURPOSE?

This will help them to TAP (TITLE – ANTICIPATE – PURPOSE) into meaning.

**2. After reading** ask two or three of the following questions:

- Who was it about?
- What did you like most about what you read?
- What were they feeling?
- Why do you think the author wrote the text?
- What was the main event/idea?

Margaret Hallahan  
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning

## MATHS/SCIENCE REPORT

Having been away from JJ Cahill MHS for over two years, I'm very pleased to have returned. I've been warmly welcomed back by staff and students and have noticed the improved atmosphere with students and staff working diligently to improve educational outcomes.

## MATHLETICS

The Mathematics Faculty will again utilise the resources of Mathletics and have expanded this to include Years 11 and 12. Teachers will allocate appropriate tasks to students and this forms a good basis for revision and preparation for end of term assessment. Students have their username and password and can access this work from home with internet access. Please take this opportunity to view the site and see how it operates. Go to [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au) and use your child's log-in details.

## COMPETITIONS

From time to time, the faculty is notified of opportunities for students to enter competitions. We encourage your child to enter these as part of the educational opportunities provided at school. If your child is interested in either of the following competitions they will need to see me ASAP to ensure they are entered.

## AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

Sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank, this international competition has run every year since 1978. It's a competition containing 25 multiple choice problems and 5 questions requiring a number answer.

There are three secondary divisions with 75 minutes of time allowed. Students are only assessed against students in the same school, year and state.

The competition will take place on Thursday 7 August and costs \$6 to enter.

See Mr Evans before 1 May if you wish to enter.

## THE BIG SCIENCE COMPETITION

The Big Science Competition is a one-hour competition of 30 multiple-choice questions held at your school. The competition challenges students to think critically and solve scientific problems using everyday examples. The questions are aligned to the Australian Curriculum – Science.

In 2014, the Big Science Competition can take place in our school on any day between 21 and 28 May inclusive. It costs \$7 to enter and you need to see Mr Evans by 7 April to enter.

Everyone who takes part in the Big Science Competition, regardless of their performance, goes in a draw to win iTunes and movie vouchers. All students receive a certificate that recognises their achievement and a report detailing their performance. The results show students how they are performing against others in the competition.

Mr G. Evans  
Head Teacher Mathematics/Science

## IMPORTANT CAREERS NEWS

**"Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 interested in medicine, dentistry, or optometry will need to sit the compulsory UMAT (examination) when applying for one of the above career choices. NIE (National Institute of Education) will be conducting their final UMAT preparation workshop on the 24th of May. Places for this event are strictly limited and registration is required. All details are available via [www.nie.edu.au](http://www.nie.edu.au)"**

## SRC NEWS

### YEAR 7 MEET AND GREET!

Firstly, great effort from our SRC at JJCMHS open day! We are proud of our school and it's great to showcase this to our community. Special mention to Angela David, Shentelle Arrogante, Michelle Elliott and Diana Phosri from Year 7 for doing a wonderful job guiding members of the community around the school showing them the school's facilities.

### VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Everyone enjoyed Valentine's Day - what a feel good day for everyone! Thank you, Mr Fienberg, for allowing us to use the music room - students were lining up! Next year, remember the SRC will take orders for the roses so sorry to all those who missed out!!



*Mr Mills presents Miss Hambly with a bunch of Valentine's Day roses!*

### A FRIENDLY BASKETBALL GAME!

Social inclusion has always been a big part of JJ and just a few weeks ago the whole school stopped to watch some friendly competition on the basketball pitch.

At lunchtime on Friday the 28th of February, after the SRC meeting, it was noticed by many that the students had all gathered around the basketball court and there was a round robin one-on-one basketball shoot-off between students. All the students were engaged and having a great time (see following pictures).



### YEAR 11 FUNDRAISER

Year 11 are running a fundraiser for their charity Bears Cottage (Children in Hospital). Please buy your Easter Buns. Next one will be a chocolate drive. Thanks, Year 11.

### BAKERS' DELIGHT

Breakfast is becoming quite a social place with our new teachers having conversations with us over toast and drinks. **Thanks to our sponsor Bakers Delight for supplying the bread.**

The next SRC Meeting will be held Thursday lunch after Formal Assemblies. Come along, we are discussing.

**\*\* What's coming up? \*\***  
Crazy Hair Day!

Dora Kelaiditis  
SRC President



*SRC President, Dora Kelaiditis with Nathan Cheung of Year 7 at the Swimming Carnival.*



*Jonathan Khan, winner U/12s boy champion with Mr Wilkinson and Dirga Lie, Year 8*



## SOCIAL INCLUSION AT JJCMHS!

In 2014, JJCMHS has implemented Social Inc., a program that seeks to overturn the stigma and social disadvantage around disability in high schools. We already do a great job at including people with disabilities in life at JJCMHS but we are trying to be the best that we can be by implementing the program.

As part of the program, our school was visited by Sydney Swans players Ryan O'Keefe and Harry Marsh. The Swans players helped us kick off the Social Inc. program with a skills session for students and a short Q & A session.

It's not too late to help! You can visit the Social Inc. website ([www.socialinc.org.au](http://www.socialinc.org.au)) and find the online survey to provide us valuable feedback on how we can be an even more inclusive school.



## AFL DAY AT JJCMHS WITH RYAN O'KEEFE AND THE SYDNEY SWANS

An outstanding day was organised by Mr Drabsch, which encouraged inclusion and social participation of support students and their integration into current sporting programs and other opportunities within and beyond school. To promote this important integration were some Sydney Swans players from the AFL, including none other than Ryan O'Keefe.

An AFL clinic was run over lunch time with support and mainstream students alike participating together to improve their skills in AFL. It was a fun afternoon with lots of engaging skills being developed and emphasising how important social inclusion is for everybody, no matter what their skill level or physical condition. It's all about supporting and including each other for great bonding experiences and great opportunities in the future.

Neville Benazic



*Henry  
kicks a  
goal.*



*Mr  
Drabsch  
takes a  
mark.*



*A Swans  
player  
shows us  
how it's  
done!*



## WELFARE REPORT

It has been a very busy start to the year with Student Welfare, with a range of activities and events happening within the school. Here at JJCMHS the Welfare Team is comprised of an active and dedicated staff, which includes Year Advisers school counsellors, the Welfare Coordinator and the Deputy Principal. This team meets once a week to discuss individual year groups and student needs, and this time is also used for planning whole school initiatives.

## VACCINATIONS FOR YEAR 7 AND 9 BOYS

Most recently, Year 7 and Year 9 male students completed vaccinations. This was very successful, with a significant increase in the number of consenting students compared to previous years. While receiving your vaccination can be a little daunting, all students managed well and approached the process with maturity. The next round of vaccinations will occur later this year, with more information to follow.

## STEWART HOUSE

Earlier this term, the Welfare team nominated students to participate in a 12-day stay at Stewart House. The successful nominations include Teika Charles, Mele Mailau, Tori Blake (Year 8) and Jack Manttan (Year 9).

At the end of this term, these students will head up to the Stewart House School in the Northern Beaches of Sydney and participate in a range of activities that focus on self-esteem, wellbeing and healthy lifestyle. With only twenty spots allocated to students in Botany Bay area, it is wonderful to have four of our students accepted. We look forward to hearing about their experiences early next term.

## MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

Several weeks ago, I made a speech at a formal assembly about mental health, and the support networks available to students who either experience concerns with their mental health or are exposed to mental health through a member of their family.

Having a strong sense of personal well-being and positive mental health is something that we all try to achieve into our daily lives. However, there are moments in our lives when things can get difficult, challenging, and ultimately our mental health is jeopardised. Illnesses that can affect our mental health include depression and anxiety, and there are a

number of places you can turn to for support. Here at school, if students are feeling that things in life are too overwhelming or there are moments of depression or anxiety, they can turn to their Year Adviser, a teacher with whom they feel comfortable speaking, or they can be referred to the school counsellor. From there, the school is able to access outside assistance depending upon the individual circumstances.

## BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Since this is the first welfare report of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the School's policy on Bullying and Harassment. When an incident of bullying occurs, student reporting is essential in order for action to be taken. Each incident is considered as serious and is investigated.

When bullying occurs, students are encouraged to speak to their Year Adviser, myself as the Welfare Coordinator, or a classroom teacher with whom they can talk. The first step, once an incident is reported, is to conduct mediation, where the aim is to restore relationships, and if not, reach agreement where all parties are able to respect each other. Cautions are issued, and any ongoing issues are passed on to the Deputy Principal and will be dealt with in accordance to the Discipline Policy, as this is viewed as consistent disobedience.

## YEAR 12 STUDY AND WELLBEING DAY

An important date is coming up for Year 12. After the success of last year, the current Year 12 cohort will participate in a Study and Wellbeing Day, workshoping various things including stress management, study skills and life after the HSC.

There will be a number of teachers and school counsellors from our local area involved, and it will undoubtedly be a successful and valuable day.

## CONTACTING THE WELFARE TEAM

If any student or parent has concerns or items to discuss regarding student welfare, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Kristy Dawkins,  
Welfare Coordinator

## YEAR 12 ADVISER'S REPORT

### THANK YOU MS HOUSEGO AND MR SUTTON

My first communication as Year Adviser for Year 12 is to thank Ms Housego as the previous Year Adviser and acknowledge what a brilliant and outstanding contribution she has made as a longstanding Year Adviser throughout the last 5 years - sharing, contributing and assisting this year group to embrace challenges and issues. This approach has helped make great improvements to each and every member of the year.

Also, thank you to Mr Sutton, who has been a stable and steady influence, helping make the role easy.

It's great to be part of such a fantastic team of inspirational people. Having said that, Year 12 are now preparing for the final countdown to the end of year exams and assessments. As I would like to quote a song from heavy metal band 'Europe'... "It's the final countdown...da tah...."

### ATTENDANCE AND PERSONAL BEST

Thus far in Year group meetings, held every consecutive fortnight, the theme has been "attendance" and improving personal best for individual attendance. The more often we are at school, the more often we are being exposed to content and learning activities. It is crucial that Year 12 continues to be really involved in turning up **"every"** day so it improves the outcome during exam time.

Year 12 must remember they are now being calibrated with everyone in the state who are also gearing up for the final countdown, as well. As a third year-running HSC examiner, I need to remind Year 12 that they need to understand they are calibrated with all students, state wide, as a process and maximum effort, in regard to improved attendance and revision, will go far gaining great results.

### YEAR 12 END OF YEAR FUNCTION

Also during our Year meetings, we have formed committees that will examine the venue and details for an end of year school function, to celebrate the end of Year 12. The committee will meet and make recommendations and present options for consideration by the school executive for approval.

## YEAR 12'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO JJ

Thus far, Year 12 students have been making great contributions to the school environment and provided great colour and fun when they represented all houses at the school swimming carnival. Great costumes and good spirit were brought to the carnival. Terrific singing performances at the school assembly with a great version of "I shot the sheriff but I did not shoot the deputy" a classic Bob Marley song sung by Cassidy and Lidel and Veronica on backup. Watch out for the Year 12 BBQ during the cross country carnival, to help raise money. For now though, back to the books and study. Stay determined, Year 12 - it will be worth it!

Attend every day and keep revising. Any issues see me or have a chat to your personal mentor, we are all only too happy to listen and help.

Mr N Benazic  
Year 12 Adviser

*Some examples of Year 12's contributions to life at JJCMHS!*



## YEAR 11 ADVISER'S REPORT

### PARENT-TEACHER NIGHTS

For the most part, Year 11 has made a positive start to their senior studies and seem to be embracing the transition with enthusiasm. It was good to see a number of parents arrive for parent-teacher night on Tuesday 18 March. I would like to remind those parents who were unable to make it to parent-teacher night, that the school holds two of these evenings per year. You can keep abreast of these dates by checking the newsletter or school website regularly, or you can 'like' our page on Facebook and be given regular, automatic updates regarding what is happening at JJCMHS.

Parent-teacher nights are a crucially important way of staying aware of your child's progress, as well as receiving direct advice on how to support their learning efforts. We encourage all parents and caregivers to attend these evenings, especially as your child's schooling has now transitioned into the all-important Preliminary and HSC phase!

### ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY

Every fortnight we run half-hour year meetings during school time. These are important opportunities for students to complete any necessary paperwork that may be required, but they are also useful forums for teachers and Year Advisers to deal with any concerning issues that may arise. A frequent cause for concern with this particular year group is that of regular attendance. Although there are many students who always try and attend school punctually and regularly, unfortunately there are also a number who do not.

I would just like to remind parents and caregivers that regular attendance at school is crucial for success, particularly in the Preliminary and HSC courses. It is very difficult for students to catch up on work they have missed. Lessons in Stage 6 are extremely content-laden and as a teacher of two Stage 6 courses myself, I am sure I can speak for all the teachers in the school, when I admit how worried and concerned I feel when a student of mine is repeatedly absent.

### GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIFE AT JJ

Year 11 has been making some wonderful, positive contributions to life at JJCMHS. Several weeks ago, the Year 11 Hospitality class very kindly stayed back after school and created some tasty hors d'oeuvres for staff and visitors for our Open Afternoon. Just last week,



Mr Jobe's Year 11 Drama class entertained the Harmony Day assembly with a fantastic performance. Pictures are included!

## TRY YOUR BEST EVERYONE!

I would like to encourage every single member of Year 11 to stay focused, to attend school regularly and to keep giving their absolute personal best! Stage 6 can be a challenging time, but it is definitely worth putting in all that hard work!

Katherine Doret  
Year 11 Adviser



*Well done, Year 11, for being so involved with school events!*

## YEAR 10 ADVISER'S REPORT

### TAKING OVER AS YEAR ADVISER

As your new year adviser, I am looking forward to working with you to make this year a positive experience for each and every one of you.

As this is the year of your RoSA, we will be focusing on your learning. The two key pillars to your success will be attendance and trying your best.

### GOOD WORK AT HARMONY DAY!

So far this year it has been fantastic to see so many Year 10s participating in whole school activities. This was highlighted at the recent Harmony Day celebration.

As a year group we are striving to become the volunteers of the school and to start we will be organising a few special events in the near future. It is going to be an exciting year with numerous opportunities to get involved and I encourage all Year 10s to make this year their best year, here at JJCMHS.

Kelly Foulser,  
Year 10 Adviser



**JJ has joined facebook**

Search "JJ Cahill Memorial High School Official"

OR

Go to [www.facebook.com/JJ.Cahill.Memorial.H.S](http://www.facebook.com/JJ.Cahill.Memorial.H.S)

Give the page a  to receive updates, reminders and news from your school.

NOTE: The page has been set up so that we cannot see your personal Facebook pages. You will still have your privacy and receive updates from the school. It will only show the number of 'likes' the page has to us. This means you can get updates and see what is on there while maintaining your privacy.

## YEAR 9 ADVISER'S REPORT

### TAKING OVER AS YEAR ADVISER

It has been my absolute pleasure to take on the role of Year 9 Adviser this year. I have worked closely with Mrs Dawkins to ensure a smooth transition and have enjoyed getting to know Year 9 from a new perspective.

### A BUSY START TO THE YEAR

The year has certainly had a busy start already, with immunisations, open day, parent teacher night and Harmony Day - with many more challenging and interesting things to come as the year unfolds. It has been positive to see students engage with their new elective subjects and begin the school year with enthusiasm. Year 9 students have their first examinations next term. Study skills and healthy habits will be reviewed in year meetings leading up to this new and challenging time.

### PARENT-TEACHER NIGHT

It was wonderful to see so many Year 9 students and parents at the parent teacher interview evening. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions or need any support.

### HARMONY DAY HELP FROM YEAR 9

Thank you to those Year 9 students who helped out at the arts and face painting stalls at Harmony Day. The students showed off not only their creative talents, but their ability to organise and communicate in a polite and friendly manner – most appreciated by the school and broader community.

### 'RAISE' PROGRAM

Next term we are fortunate to be housing the 'Raise' program at our school, where select Year 9 students will have the positive experience of engaging with the mentoring process. For more information please visit <http://raise.org.au>.

I encourage students to continue to maintain their school attendance, particularly as expectations for assessment requirements during Stage 5 increase. Thank you to Year 9 for welcoming me so warmly and I look forward to continuing work with you all - not to mention enjoying the year ahead!

Sasha Ferguson  
Year 9 Adviser

## YEAR 8 ADVISER'S REPORT

### AN INCREDIBLE START TO THE YEAR

To absolutely nobody's surprise Year 8 has had an incredible start this year. Following on from their academic and extra-curricular success, Year 8 students continue to demonstrate a consistent commitment to their studies and are always willing become get involved in all areas of school life.

### AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT OF MERIT AWARDS

As our merit system continues to build momentum, Year 8 is leading the way with an impressive number of merits being submitted for recording every day. Already, nearly a quarter of all Year 8 students have received enough merits, for a wide range of achievements, to be eligible for the Year Adviser Certificate, which represents the first step up the merit ladder. On this note, I have to give special mention to **Sophia Nicole Pablo** who has received an impressive 35 merits, making her eligible for a Deputy Principal's Certificate and knocking on the door of the coveted Principal's Certificate.

### YEAR 7 AND 8 CAMP

As a way of rewarding their diligent approach and proactive attitude toward the JJCMHS community, Mr Gracie, Mr Drabsch and I are in the process of co-ordinating a Year 7/8 camp that we would like to run late next term. All parents should have received an Expression of Interest form earlier this term and we are still happy to collect them if any parent has been delayed in returning it to school. Please feel free to contact me in the English Staffroom for more information regarding this experience.

### ACHIEVING YOUR PERSONAL BEST

A key focus of our Year Meetings this year has been defining and achieving success. I would encourage all Year 8 students to set their own goals towards achieving their personal best, and remember to measure their success, not only in results and merits, but also in the way they interact with those around them and develop positive relationships.

Curtis Jobe  
Year 8 Adviser

## YEAR 7 ADVISER'S REPORT

### OFF TO A FLYING START FOR YEAR 7!

Year 7 is officially off to a flying start for 2014! The students have eased their way into high school life at JJCMHS.

### GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

So far they have experienced the best of JJCMHS at our annual swimming carnival held at the Des Renford Aquatic Centre. New students Jonathan Khan and Jessica Budak eventually won the u/12s Boys & Girls Champions

### MEET AND GREET BBQ

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March a Meet and Greet BBQ was held at the school for parents, students and teachers of Year 2014. The night was an excellent opportunity to establish a strong relationship between each student's family and school, a relationship which is so important for a student's academic and social development.

### PARENT-TEACHER NIGHT

If you missed the Year 7 Meet and Greet BBQ, perhaps you came along to our first Parent-Teacher night for 2014, which was held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. If you missed Parent-Teacher night, remember that JJCMHS will be holding a second one in Term 3. Check the website, newsletter or our Facebook page for details.

### YEAR 7 AND 8 CAMP

Expressions of Interest for a Year 7/8 school camp were sent home recently and all Year 7 students should return them ASAP.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, I would like to congratulate all Year 7 students on their outstanding transition into High School - well done!

Ricky Drabsch  
Year 7 Adviser

## OPEN BOYS' BASKETBALL

JJCMHS sent off an outstanding squad (though only numbering 5) to represent our school against Menai High School in the Sutherland Shire.

Despite our best efforts we were taken down by an over represented team (17 players, most of whom were 6 foot and over) with 2 rep players. In the 'JJ' manner we did not go down without a fight Seiji David throwing two 3-pointers against the other team which definitely concerned Menai High School.

Defence was well played and 'JJ' worked hard to shut down some of their best shooters. Sadly Menai took advantage of many fast breaks and the fact that our school did not have any substitutes due to other students bailing on the day of comp. Our team did an outstanding job and the coach, I thought you performed very well. I was extremely proud of those students who participated and committed on the day. Your determination was an inspiration. To me, you were all winners on the day.

Neville Benazic  
Coach



*Open team 2014; Seiji David Eduardo Unda Velasquez, Brock Peardon, Anthony Quinn*

## OPEN GIRLS' KNOCKOUT NETBALL

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, I had the pleasure of taking 10 girls from Years 10-12 to participate in the Sydney East Open Girls' Knockout Competition. After a pleasant bus ride down to Miranda, the girls were keen to play, and were ready to face their first competition,



which was Cronulla High. Having played them last year, the girls were pumped to lift their intensity and give the girls from Cronulla a good run around. In what was a very fast-paced game; the girls from 'JJ' were fairly evenly matched with their opposition across the court. Our team showed some good skills with great passing, intercepts and shots at goal. However, we were no match for their shooter, who was particularly tall and had a near perfect shooting average.

While we unfortunately lost this first game, the girls were not disgraced and played with great intensity, sportsmanship and commitment right until the end of the match.

Our next game was against Strathfield Girls' High School were keen to come away with a win, so despite the weather being very warm and the girls being a bit tired from the first game, they approached the second game with the same amount of intensity as the first. Our team played excellently, with some great court placement and intercepts, in what was a fairly evenly matched game. In the end, the score was a nail-biter, but 'JJ' came away with a win at 25-24.

Overall, the girls exhibited great maturity on the day, and represented JJCMHS with pride. Their enthusiasm and sportsmanship was infectious, with the coaches from both schools commenting on how enjoyable it was to play our school. Congratulations to the players on an excellent day out. We had lots of fun and I look forward to the next netball tournament.

Kristy Dawkins  
Netball Coach



*The Open Girls' Netball team with their coach,  
Mrs Kristy Dawkins*

## P&C MESSAGE

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2014, we held our first meeting of the year with great success. Firstly we would like to congratulate our newly elected President Julie Gray and look forward to working together. We would also like to thank our outgoing President Lily Bull for her contribution and dedication to the P&C.

Our main fundraising project has been the Outdoor Learning Centre, which has been progressing along very well. We will be holding a Trivia Night on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July and we welcome all to come and have some fun. Gifts and donations towards our prizes for the night will be welcomed and greatly appreciated. All funds raised will be donated back to our school in support for special projects and school resources for our students' needs.

Meetings are held only once a term and we encourage more parents/carers and members of our community to come and join our friendly team to support our local High School. If interested in supporting our team in any way, this will be appreciated, so please leave your details with the Admin Staff in the Front Office.

Looking forward to your support.

Mara Kelaiditis  
Secretary  
JJ Cahill Memorial High P&C Committee



## SWIMMING CARNIVAL





## HARMONY DAY







*Thank you to the very talented Ms Ferguson of the Art faculty for her fabulous Swimming Carnival and Harmony Day pictures!*



# HOME DOCTOR SERVICE™

## Information on after hours home doctor visits:

When students miss school due to illness, it creates an additional burden for teachers in revising lessons that were missed.  
Often students can recover if they receive early treatment.

Families are generally not aware of after-hours doctor's home visits on weeknights, weekends, public holidays and even school holidays. This is a government funded community service which is bulk billed.

For further information go to:

[www.homedoctor.com.au/schoolnewsletter](http://www.homedoctor.com.au/schoolnewsletter)



**WEEKNIGHTS, WEEKENDS  
& PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

BULK BILLING AVAILABLE. CONDITIONS APPLY.



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SERVICE

