'WINGS' J.J. Cahill Memorial High School

school newsletter

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HONOUR EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 5 Term 3 August 2015

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COMING EVENTS

28 Aug	SRC elections
31 Aug	HSC Music submissions due
2 Sept	HSC N-Award Appeals deadline
7 Sept	Yr 11 Preliminary exams commence
16 Sept	Yr 11 Preliminary exams conclude
	Yr 11 Sign-Out process
17 Sept	Yr 12 Graduation Assembly & Dinner
18 Sept	Last day of Term 3
5 Oct	Labour Day Public Holiday
6 Oct	First day of Term 4 – all students
	Year 11 Crossroads commences
11 Oct	Year 11 Crossroads concludes
12 Oct	HSC Exams commence
23 Oct	School Vaccinations visit 3
4 Nov	HSC Exams conclude

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A BIG THANK YOU FOR BIG NIGHT OUT!

What a fabulous way to showcase the many talents of our students! Big Night Out was another spectacular success. Congratulations to the many students who performed on the evening and to the staff who also performed, particularly Mr Fienberg and Mr Chapman; and to Mr Gracie and Mr Sneddon who each worked with our drama students and to Ms Stathis and Ms Bonacci who helped prepare our dancers. We are a small school but there were many staff members who volunteered to help on the night supervising various areas and serving on the stalls. Thank you to all involved.

A big thank you to our P&C executive and members who ran the food stall making well over a $1,000 on the night. A significant amount was also donated by George Karonis' family who have recently taken over the Mascot Charcoal Chicken business and I thank them on behalf of our community.

Thank you also to parents who have prepared dance costumes or who have been bringing the students to practice sessions in the lead up period.

A lot of time goes into the preparation of such an event and I trust that our students appreciate everyone else's efforts.

HSC PERFORMANCES

Our drama students were the first to experience the HSC practical performance examination Monday last week. Many spent time with Mr Gracie on final rehearsals on the Sunday before and he reports that all performed their personal best on the day of the exam.

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Industrial Technology major works will be marked this week with Music students performing next week. Best wishes to all for a really positive experience.

I hope all Year 12 students are ensuring they are studying on a regular basis so they are well prepared for the final written examinations in October/November. Each should be liaising with his/her mentor to help maintain motivation and alleviate any stress that comes with this period in school life.

A reminder, our Year 12 Graduation Assembly is on Thursday 17 September at 11am and the Graduation Dinner will follow at 6pm in the evening. Separate correspondence has been sent to Year 12 parents/caregivers.

GREAT NAPLAN RESULTS

Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN results have come in and our teachers are thrilled to see such improvement. In nearly all results our students outperformed the state average growth by between 20 and 30 points… an incredible achievement!

Congratulations to all the students who were tested and to the teachers who have made a concerted effort to boost literacy and numeracy levels. All should be very proud.

ENROLMENTS

We still have some vacancies for 2016. If you have friends or neighbours who may wish to enrol their children, please advise them to come to the office to complete an application. Each applicant is then interviewed and if 'out of area', a panel consisting of staff and parent representatives will assess the application in line with our Enrolment Policy. Some Year groups are almost full but we will accommodate local enrolments wherever possible.

Tell them about the great results we are achieving, the great technology we have and the facility upgrades that combine to make our school such a great place to learn. Look for our article in ***Southern Courier's*** *Young Leaders* magazine.

SENIOR STUDY SESSIONS

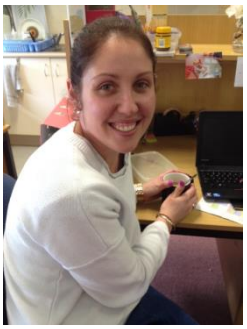
Teachers have volunteered to open our Library on Monday afternoons/evenings to provide a quiet and non-distracting area in which Years 11 and 12 may study.

Initially this was well received and utilised by our students. It would seem, by recent attendance, that students have now established a good study pattern and no longer require this opportunity so it will no longer be provided.

I thank the teachers who supervised these study sessions, for their generosity and time. In particular I wish to acknowledge the contribution Mrs Griffith has made in the organisation and thank her.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs Housego has gained a promotion, through merit selection, to the position of Head Teacher Administration, St George Girls High School.



This is a well-deserved promotion that Mrs Housego will take up at the beginning of Term 4 this year. On behalf of the school, I extend both congratulations and best wishes for her future career. I know she will be missed by both her students and colleagues.

Other news is that Ms Hambly has delivered a healthy baby boy two weeks ago. Lots of sleepless nights ahead! It is anticipated that Ms Hambly will return in Term 1 next year.

Robyn Cowin,
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

ONLINE BOOKINGS AND COMMUNICATION

PARENT TEACHER EVENING

This year we introduced an online system for parents to make bookings for interviews with teachers more efficient and convenient. Using the *Millennium* Parent portal and the link provided, parents have been able to arrange interviews with teachers suitable to their own needs and availability.

Our school conducts two evenings for Parent-Teachers interviews. The first is in March and the second during Term 3 as a follow up to the issue of Semester 1 reports. We find the timing of these two events most appropriate for our community so feedback and information to support your child's education can be given to show how students have begun the year and then progressed during the year. When the school calendar is issued at the beginning of the year, please mark the dates in your own diary.

Alternatively, regularly visit our school website for updates and new information of school events.

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SUBJECT SELECTION

This year we have also facilitated subject selection for Years 8 and 10 students online and the uptake of students doing this has been excellent. This strategy has significantly decreased the amount of time staff spend on administration duties to enter choices and then analyse those choices. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with over 90% of students using this media. I am sure this method will continue in 2016 for subject selection.

FUTURE ADDITIONS

As part of our strategic planning we are researching the best service to help us launch a JJCMHS app. Stay tuned for developments in this area. This is an exciting way we can promote our school and enable more immediate and effective communication between the school and the community. It will revolutionise the way families interact with our school. Exciting times ahead!
In the meantime I encourage all students and families to regularly visit the school website for important events and school information.

John Mifsud,
Deputy Principal

HELLO FROM THE LIBRARY IN TERM 3!

Welcome back to Term 3!

It has been a very quiet term so far in the library as Year 12 exams have taken place. Congratulations to all our senior students for making it through – one more hurdle and then you're free! But don't underestimate the significance of this hurdle – if your trial results were not as good as you had hoped, consider the following Confucian proverb:

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
(Read more quotes at http://www.brainyquote.com)

This means that if you have not achieved the mark you wanted, don't lower your own standards and expectations and think that mark is OK. Instead, change the way you study! All the staff here at JJ can help you think of new ways to reach your goals. All you have to do is ask…

If you feel the need to improve your Trial results, don't despair – just change the way you are currently doing things! A good start would be attending the Monday evening study session in the Library (see over).

Come and see the September 'Sleepout' Display (above).

Ms Rowe,
Relieving Librarian

SOME MORE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YEAR 12

Well, HSC Trials are over and most students have received their results. While some students are generally pleased with the outcome, there are also quite a few who are disappointed and feel they could have done better.

This is a normal occurrence after HSC Trial exams for many students and I would like to encourage Year 12 not to feel too disheartened and certainly not to give up trying! Mr Mifsud and I have spoken at length to Year 12 about the crucial importance of all students applying themselves to their study from this stage forwards. It is not too late to make a dramatic improvement on the marks you received in the Trials and other assessments throughout the year. As we explained, the assessment task which the school submits to the Board of Studies undergoes a 'moderation' process in keeping with the overall results in the actual HSC exams. If students can make big improvements in their results for the HSC, the assessment marks can increase and this is a goal every student needs to aim for.

If there are any students who are still uncertain about the best way to start a program of thorough and consistent study, I suggest they meet urgently with their mentors or come and see myself or Mrs Griffith. We will be only too happy to give you some tips on the best way forward.

A great way to study, particularly at this stage of the year, is to download and print past examination papers. These are very easy to access online. For 'written' subjects such as English and Ancient History, a great way to revise is to get a list of past questions and write essay plans accompanied by a practice introduction. Remember to show your teachers your answers so they can give you that all-important feedback!

Don't forget the study sessions we have been holding in the Library each Monday evening. These will continue for the remainder of the term and so we encourage all students looking for a warm and quiet place to study to make the most of this offer.

In Week 10 of this term we will be hosting two very exciting events: the Graduation Assembly and Dinner so stay posted for more information!

Katherine Doret,
Year 12 Adviser

WELL DONE YEAR 10!

Year 10 students are to be congratulated for their mature and considered approach to their subject selections for Years 11 and 12. As part of our subject selection process, all Year 10 students were interviewed about their intentions for the next two years and beyond. It was encouraging to see that our students took this process seriously and had a good awareness of HSC requirements and knowledge of specific course requirements. The transition to Year 11 is an exciting time when students can tailor their learning program to suit their interests and aspirations. It is great to see our students looking forward to Year 11 with excitement and anticipation.

Thanks must go to the parents and guardians of our Year 10 students who have worked with their children to help them make decisions about their future studies. It was encouraging to see many families in attendance at the information evening and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Sally Jessop,
Year 10 Adviser

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A TIME FOR YEAR 8 TO REFLECT!

In the coming weeks I will be conducting interviews with Year 8 students that will ask them to reflect on their learning and the information provided by their teachers in their recently issued report cards. Self-reflection is an important aspect of student learning and something we encourage at 'J J', as Socrates once said "*the unexamined life is not worth living*".

Students have been given some reflection homework and will be asked to nominate a learning goal to achieve in the remaining months of 2015. Parents and students should take this opportunity to have a conversation about learning, setting realistic goals and actions we can all take to assist students to achieve these goals. Asking students to tell you about a time when they did their best work in class this year is a great way to open this conversation.

Ricky Drabsch,
Year 8 Adviser

VISUAL ARTS MESSAGE

Year 12 Visual Arts students are now frantically working towards the completion of their HSC Bodies of Work. This is traditionally a very stressful yet rewarding experience as students get to witness the resolution of their creative endeavours from the past year. Students are urged to make the most of every opportunity to work on their BOWs and are reminded that Art Club is in operation every Wednesday afternoon to provide them with additional support.

Sally Jessop,
Visual Arts Teacher

SPORTS REPORT

Competing over Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July JJ Cahill MHS had 4 students compete at the Sydney East Region athletics carnival and the following students should be proud of their achievements:

Adam Awad – 2nd 16yrs Boys Shot Put
Litia Togoloa – 2nd 15yrs Girls Shot Put
Hulita Fonua – 5th 17yrs Girls Shot Put
Lusa Polamalu – 7th 17yrs Javelin

The school wishes Adam and Litia all the best at the New South Wales Combined High Schools Athletics Championships on 3rd, 4th, and 5th September.

Litia, Hulita and Lusa at the Sydney East Regional Carnival.

A MESSAGE FROM THE P&C

Want to make a difference to J J Cahill Memorial High School and your local community? This is a call to all parents who care about their local school and want to make a difference in the community: Join your J J Cahill MHS P&C Association!

Not only do P&Cs support your school as a whole, but they are great for the parents who are involved. You can learn new skills, and gain a clear understanding of how your school operates. This is a great opportunity to share in the school's decision-making process and shape the future.

Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable. Meet new people and have some fun!

Meetings are held once a term on a Monday night usually from 6pm. For the dates, see the trifold calendar which was posted to parents. A reminder notice is handed out to students on the day.

For more information please contact Julie Gray on 0450 876 639.

Julie Gray,
President

Some pictures of Years 8 and 9 enjoying camp in Term 4 of 2014

A little late but better than not at all….

Pictures from the Big Night Out

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SRC REPORT

JJ's School Representative Council is holding a sleep-out in the school hall on Tuesday 1st September. The sleep-out will raise awareness and vital funds for *Youth Off The Streets*, a charity which supports young people who are experiencing homelessness and recovering from trauma. The charity aims to provide young people in their care with education, living skills and a full or part-time job. Our fundraising goal is $700.00 and we are edging closer every day. You can support *Youth Off The Streets* and our sleep-out by donating using our donation page, the link can be found on the 'J J Cahill Memorial High School Official' Facebook page. Students who wish to attend the sleep-out are asked to provide $2 to participate. More information will be going out to students shortly.

SRC ELECTIONS

The time of year for SRC elections for 2016 is drawing near. The SRC has gone through some changes in the recent past and we are rebuilding the Student's Representative Council. The SRC is to be run *by* students *for* students. As SRC co-ordinators we are putting the challenge to our student body to nominate to join the SRC and make a difference. As an SRC member you can expect to gain skills in communication, event planning, meeting, and leadership skills. The job suits energetic young people who want to make a difference in their school and their community.

Ricky Drabsch
SRC Coordinator

HOMEWORK

Students should be setting time aside most nights to complete their homework. If students claim to have no homework, which will occasionally happen, there is always something to do. Students have recently had study skills sessions delivered to them. Students should be using these skills to summarise their notes from the day's classes and filing these notes. This system makes a huge difference in preparing for assignments and exams. I am a great fan of reading for the sake of reading. If someone claims that books are boring they simply haven't looked hard enough to find one. If you set aside 10 minutes a night to read then in no time a book will be finished. Reading for pleasure has a wonderful ability to contribute to learning skills in all classes at school. I would also encourage students to read and/or watch news from a reputable news source in order to engage in their world and further develop their reading and comprehension skills.

FURNITURE CLASS FINISHES IN TIME

Congratulations to the Year 12 Furniture students who have successfully completed a range of timber furniture products for their HSC major projects. The students completed their projects by the first week of August, making them one of the first students in the state to complete part of their formal assessment for their HSC.

Over the course of 2015, the students had the opportunity to design and create their own furniture products using a wide variety of tools, machines and materials. With continued access to the workshop students completed industrial processes that are used in industry today.

Industrial Technology – Furniture is designed to develop in students a knowledge and understanding of the selected industry and its related technologies with an emphasis on design, management and production through practical applications.

Much of Australia's economic, social and cultural development can be related to the capacity of our industries to develop and use technology in the manufacture of goods and services. The effective and responsible application of industrial technologies has a direct bearing upon the quality of our lives. For this reason, the study of industrial technology and its role in industry is relevant and purposeful for many students.

Well done and congratulations to the 2015 Industrial Technology – Furniture class on completion of your Major Projects.

David Topping
Head Teacher TAS (VET, Computers)

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WORK PLACEMENT

During Term 3 2015 Year 11 VET students at J J Cahill Memorial High school have attended Work placement for a variety of subjects. It is a planned opportunity for students to attend quality host workplace in the local area that enables senior school students studying particular industry-based courses to practise and develop their industry competencies and their employability skills in a vibrant real work context. J J CMHS students have really benefitted from the experience, gaining new skills and gaining an insight into career paths after school. Some students were offered jobs from employers. Well done to all the students who completed their placement. They will be embarking on their second week of work placement in Term 4 during weeks 4 and 5 2015.

Work placement is a mandatory component of industry-based vocational education and training (VET) courses that students can choose as part of their studies for the NSW Higher School Certificate.

Selena Wynn
Home Economics
VET Coordinator

Pictures of work placement

SALE

Girls Blouses Junior and Senior
Sizes 8 to 28 available
Both short and long sleeved
Sizes 32 to 36 white in short sleeved
$22
($35 at Lowes)

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Thank you from
J J Cahill Memorial
High School to
Mascot Charcoal Chickens
and the Karonis Family for
their very generous donation
on The Big Night Out!

GRAPHIC ARTS CLUB

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The School thanks the
Graphic Arts Club for their
continued financial support
for students and more
recently of school programs.

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