

'WINGS'

J. J. Cahill Memorial High School
school newsletter

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HONOUR

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 7 Term 4

December 2015

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COMING EVENTS

11 December – Presentation Day
 14 December – School Picnic
 16 December – Last day of term for students
 27 January – School Development Day
 28 January – School resumes for Years 7, 11 and 12
 29 January – School resumes for Years 8, 9 and 10
 17 February – School Swimming Carnival
 1 March – Zone Swimming Carnival

PRINCIPAL'S
MESSAGE

OUR SCHOOL YEAR ENDS ON SOME VERY POSITIVE NOTES.....

End of year reports reflect some marked improvements for many of our students which also bodes well for the pending HSC results. The school has seen a turn-around in application across each cohort and teachers look forward to 2016 in anticipation of following this year's trend. Congratulations to all who have worked so hard this year in their studies.

Presentation Day is on Friday 11 December followed by our school picnic on Monday 14 December at Sir Joseph Banks Park, Botany. School will conclude on Wednesday 16 December this year. With some changes to teaching spaces and staffrooms, students will be assisting staff on both the Tuesday and Wednesday of the last week to move textbooks and equipment as well as a general tidying up of learning spaces.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Education delegates from Korea earlier this term. All were keen to observe our students learning and to see the school's facilities. Thank you to our tour guides, Gia Kelaiditis and Jenna Baziotis and Ms Perez who generously organised the afternoon. (See group photo above)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the spirit of giving and to support the local community, school staff members have decided to make a donation to The Prince Of Wales Children's Hospital at Randwick rather than give gifts to colleagues. A trust fund has been set up

for anyone to contribute. A collection will be made on Presentation Day and everyone is welcome to donate, please ensure you pay the office directly or via the School's website payment link.

"WE BOUGHT A BUS!!!!"

Many years of saving and donations from the local community have resulted in the purchase of a school bus which we will use to alleviate the transport costs for our families when students are travelling in small groups. My thanks to Mr Mills who has spent many hours ensuring we have the best deal and all bases are covered.

After a training day for the staff who have volunteered to be drivers, the first trip for the bus will be to the school picnic. The school is in negotiations with the DoE to have a garage built to house the vehicle.



UNIFORM

All uniform is now available from Lowes at Eastgardens.

Just a reminder that from 2016 the senior girls skirt will be navy and applies to all Year 11 girls and subsequent year groups when they progress to the senior school for 2016. Only Year 12 students may wear either the new or old fabric. The new style fleecy lined, hooded jackets will be available from January.

The new sports shirts and track pants are also available. Year 7 students must wear the new uniform. A delay is anticipated for the supply of sports shorts. Until then, students are to wear the old style shorts. For other year groups there will be a 12 month change over period.

FAREWELL

Our HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment) Head Teacher, Mr Cameron Sutton, is transferring to Penshurst Girls High School from next year. Mr Sutton has been instrumental in establishing our Environment Management Plan and PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) which has been slowly introduced but will be fully implemented next year. He has made a significant contribution to the education of many of our students since he started here in 2011 and we will be sad to see him leave. On behalf of the school I thank him and wish him well for the future at his new school.

Mr Benazic, one of our TAS teachers, is transferring to Kogarah High School. Mr Benazic has been at our school for over 12 years and has taught technology and construction courses to many of our students. He has always been willing to jump in and take on other roles across the school including that of Year Adviser and member of the Uniform Committee. His long term contribution is appreciated and no doubt his cheerful manner will be missed.

Thank you to our temporary staff members who are also leaving this year. Ms Haughney has accepted a permanent position at a school on the north side of the harbour. Ms Leong is finishing in the position that Mr Brent Wilkinson vacated at the end of Term 1. Perhaps we'll see her back next year working some relief days. Best wishes to both teachers. We also farewell our gardener, Danny Parnell, who has been appointed permanently to another school.

Best wishes to Mrs Sally Jessop who is leaving pending the birth of her child, hopefully that will happen in January. It is anticipated that Mrs Jessop will return in 2017. Mr Potter will be taking on her role as Year 11 Adviser from the beginning of Term 1 next year.

SCHOOL RESUMES

The 2016 school year will start on 28 January for Years 7, 11 and 12 and on Friday 29 January for all other year groups. As classes (and teachers) will be confirmed based on the actual enrolments in that week, it is important that all students attend from the first day. If students are absent they may miss out on their first preference for subjects to be studied. If the family is returning from a holiday, please send a letter to advise this year so the school can keep the vacancy open. Some year groups are almost full and we have had many enrolment enquiries.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR FAMILIES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY BREAK.

Robyn Cowin
Principal



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Season's greetings everybody!

2016 has been a year of growth and significant change at J J in all school settings. Improvements to external aesthetics in the school supports the upgrade of classroom facilities and the introduction of seventeen interactive white boards helps to reinforce quality teaching and learning.

Throughout the year teachers have been commenting on the positive interactions taking place in classrooms and in the playground and students are engaging more with their own learning and supporting the learning of their peers.

The Department of Education has published a framework for school excellence by which the document advises schools on how we can measure student engagement. The key identifiers of student attendance, behaviour referrals, suspension rates, merit awards, submission of student work and assessments all indicate significant positive change in 2015. In an earlier edition of our newsletter we shared specific data indicating areas of growth in NAPLAN. Our NAPLAN results show growth in writing and numeracy with many students achieving value added data higher than expected growth. Students are showing an understanding of our *Ready for learning* mantra, which we have been talking about for the past year and a half, with their focus on their classroom learning and personal behaviour. The acceptance and ownership for learning has been a remarkable shift and I know as a staff we are all proud to see and experience it.

This year eighty four students will receive acknowledgement for their attainment of a commendable academic report for semester 2 2015. This acknowledgement is testament to their persistent application in class to improve their learning and acquire new knowledge and skills.

I congratulate all these students and those who will receive additional acknowledgment of their academic success with an award at the presentation ceremony. It has been a pleasure to watch you continue your educational and personal development this year.

The school has been busy working towards implementing the focus areas of the strategic plan this year. Key milestones reached are: increased capacity to incorporate explicit literacy skills in the teaching of learning outcomes, increased capacity to incorporate ICT into pedagogy, continued research of new educational initiatives, increased student attendance and engagement, launch of *skoolbag* app and the promotion of school and student achievement.

I wish the whole J J community will have a safe and happy holiday and return to school in 2016 with the goal of making it their best year yet reaching even higher accomplishments.

John Mifsud,
Deputy-Principal

PRESENTATION DAY 2015

J J Cahill Memorial High School will be holding its Annual Presentation Ceremony for Years 7-11 in recognition of their achievements throughout 2015. Parents and carers, family and friends are invited to celebrate success by attending the ceremony.

Date: Friday 11 December 2015
Time: 11:00am for 11:10am
Place: JJ Cahill Memorial High School Hall
Sutherland St, Mascot

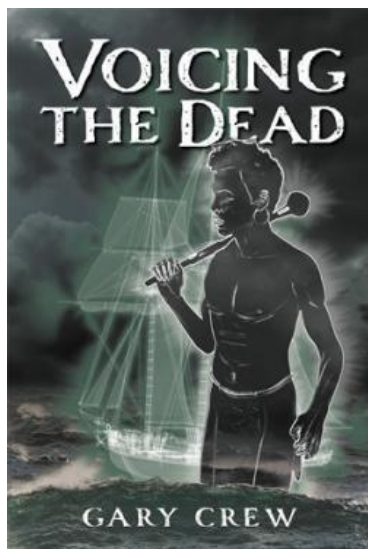
Please join us for a BBQ following the ceremony to celebrate the efforts and achievement of our students, staff and community in 2015.

Please note: student will be informed if they are receiving awards in Week 9.

HELLO FROM THE LIBRARY IN TERM 4!

NEW TEXTS

***Voicing The Dead* by Gary Crew**



Jack Ireland is a 14 year old English born survivor of the horrors of capture by head hunters. In *Voicing the Dead*, internationally-awarded author Gary Crew revisits the astonishing story of nineteenth century teenager Jack Ireland who survived - and lived to fight back through his 'never say die' determination and creativity.

***Neon Genesis Evangelion* by Yoshiyuki Sadamoto**

Neon Genesis Evangelion is a long-running manga series by Yoshiyuki Sadamoto (story & art) and Gainax's co-founder Hideaki Anno (original work) and published by Kadokawa Shoten. It began in the February issue of *Shōnen Ace* in December 1994 and ended in June 2013. It consists of 14 volumes, each composed of several "stages" or chapters.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?

We have celebrated many significant events this term. Halloween was a hit as Ms Mylan and Mrs Melas had fun with spider webs and all things gruesome and scary. Students borrowed a mixture of horror, thriller and fantasy texts to get into the mood.



On Remembrance Day, in particular, we also remembered those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.





Currently, we are anticipating the release of the new Star Wars movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". Students have been ravenously reading the graphic novel and novel forms of the film.

MANGA COMPETITION IS NOW UNDERWAY!

Students turned up to the library in their own time at lunch in week 7 to begin drawing their manga masterpiece Manga. Manga is a style of Japanese comic book and graphic novel.

This drawing competition encourages students to express their creativity within this genre, adopting the style and often exaggerated features of this Japanese art. Some students even turned up with their own portfolios of Manga art and will work on an original drawing for this competition. The winner and prize will be awarded in week 10 of this term.

Students working on their manga designs and (below) the finished result.



FROM THE LIBRARIAN

J J Cahill Memorial High School library has been a hub of activity at the end of 2015. The library has been the location of many extra-curricular and essential learning forums for students. Students in Year 10 have worked hard at progressing through the "All Your Own Work" program and the "Peer Support" program.

The Chess Club has met regularly to maintain their skills, ready for next year's competitions. Students have been enjoying the new spaces arranged for them around the library. The non-fiction section of the library has been rearranged so that all of the texts are situated on two rows of shelving. This allows students to be able to find the sections they are looking for more efficiently. It has also allowed for more wall space which will be dedicated to art and design.

Year 7 has participated in speed writing activities where they build their quick thinking and writing skills in a creative and unrestricted manner. Speed writing has also helped students to overcome the 'blank page' problem, assisted in getting their brains warmed up for higher-level functioning and builds their quick thinking and quick writing skills which are fundamental to exam conditions in any subject area.

Remember: if in doubt, visit the library!

Tara Mylan,
Teacher Librarian

P&C NEWS

The J J Cahill Memorial High School P&C Committee have had a successful year working together with the students, staff and our local community. We have gladly presented our school with a \$5000 contribution towards the Outdoor Learning Centre, which in fact is truly finished and enjoyed by all.

Another successful fundraising night enjoyed by all was J J Cahill's "Big Night Out" and what a great night. Students and teachers performances were outstanding. Well done and thank you all for enjoying and supporting our delicious BBQ. Thank you to Mascot Charcoal Chicken for their considerable donation which is greatly appreciated.

Our next fundraising project we are now working towards is to house our school bus which our students will be benefiting from. We will again be contributing to bursaries to two students which will be presented during the end of the year's School Presentation Day.

To the parents/guardians as well as our local community we would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year and wishing your support continues into the New Year 2016. We encourage you all to join the P&C committee. We only hold four meetings a year, one per term and we would like new faces and new ideas so come along and support us in our new goals and projects which will benefit all students here and in the future. We do need more help and assistance so come and join our friendly J J P&C Team.

Congratulations to our current Year 12 students for being great role models and for supporting your local high school. We wish you all the best and hope you all fulfil your dreams for the not too distant future.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mara Kelaiditis
P&C Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 7!

It has been an eventful experience for Year 7 in their first year of high school. Always full of enthusiasm, they have continuously been the dominant year at attending school events. Whether it is the swimming carnival or the sleep out, Year 7 has been there to display their school spirit. In saying this, it is important that this continues into 2016.

The highlight of the year would definitely be the number of awards Year 7 has received. As a cohort, they have been rewarded with over 1300 merit awards. Furthermore, 42 students have received Year Adviser awards (10 merits), 14 students have received Head Teacher awards (30 merits) and 5 students have received Deputy Principal awards (60 merits). I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Chloe Andrews, who finished with approximately 100 merits this year. This is a fantastic achievement and is a true reflection of her persistent diligence in class and her kindness towards others.

Congratulations and thank you to all Year 7 students for their hard work this year. It has been a pleasure to help guide you through your first year of high school. I look forward to 2016 and I hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday break.

Mr McNaught,
Year 7 Adviser

SOME WORDS FOR YEAR 8

As 2015 rapidly draws to its conclusion, I want to suggest to students and parents to carefully read, consider and discuss their end of year reports. The reporting and feedback process is a very important aspect of learning and a powerful tool in helping students identify future goals and reflect on their contribution to their learning. Use the information contained in the report to guide your growth as a student and a young adult.

Come back to school with questions for your teacher about your report and use the information to keep pushing yourself to achieve in your classes in 2016.

I am very impressed with the maturity that has been displayed by Year 8 in 2015 and I am looking forward to again working with you all in 2016. As some final advice for the holidays I want you to do two things. 1. Rest and relax. The holidays are an important time to stop, relax and spend time with those closest to you. After a busy year the holidays are a time to reconnect with family and friends. 2. Find a way to 'step outside your comfort zone'. Design and build something using your hands and brain, teach yourself to play an instrument or at least one song on an instrument you've never played before, read a book on a topic you wouldn't normally read about or if you don't read much at all for goodness' sake READ A BOOK. A real book with real old, brown smelly pages!!! This can be an amazing experience.

In which might also find time to give back to your community. The holidays often highlight the unfortunate circumstances many people find themselves in. If you can, find a way to give back to the community either by volunteering or by way of donation. A small act of kindness always goes a long way.

Mr Ricky Drabsch,
Year 8 Adviser

HOLA YEAR 9!

I am proud to see Year 9 have been working hard from the beginning of Term 1 to the end of the year 2015. I would like to congratulate Year 9 students on their positive attitude to learning and their hard work across all subject areas. It has been great to read your overwhelmingly positive report comments in Term 4.

Well done, you sure have been keeping me busy tracking all of your merit awards for the draw!

Earlier in the year, Year 9 showed an improvement on their Naplan results from Year 7 which was very encouraging to see. In Term 2 Year 9 students had the opportunity to participate in mentoring programs to help them with real-life skills in the RAISE program. The Mentoring Program provides a community of nurturing and positive role model support for young people. Some students used this to help them with achieving important goals like applying for their first part time job, becoming more confident trying new things and achieving academic success.

Finally, I would like to encourage students to come and speak to me if they have any concerns or questions about your transition to Year 10. I can be found in the English/LOTE/Drama staffroom of my classroom at the top of B Block.

All in all it has been a fantastic experience being your Year Adviser this year, thanks for being an amazing bunch of people!

María E Pérez,
Year 9 Adviser

A MESSAGE FOR YEAR 10

This has been an extremely busy term for Year 10 with the yearly examinations, the conclusion of their Stage 5 studies and the Year 10 Program. The Year 10 Program is an initiative designed to prepare students for the challenges of senior study and life beyond school. Students undertook a range of workshops and activities including All My Own Work, Senior Study Skills, Creating Connections, Survivor Life, Peer Support Training and team building sessions. In addition to these workshops, Year 10 students participated in an excursion to La Trobe University and Ultimo TAFE to experience the different types of tertiary education available to them.



Year 10 have also completed their second round of Work Experience and have been out in the community and working for local businesses and institutions. This has given them an insight into different workplaces and the types of employment available. It has been wonderful to hear all the positive feedback from their work experience supervisors. The Year 10 Program concluded in Week 10 with two bumper excursions to Tree Top Adventure Park and The Quarantine Station. Students then completed individual learning activities based on these experiences.

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into the organisation of such a program. Ms Hallahan is to be congratulated for her tireless efforts in ensuring the Year

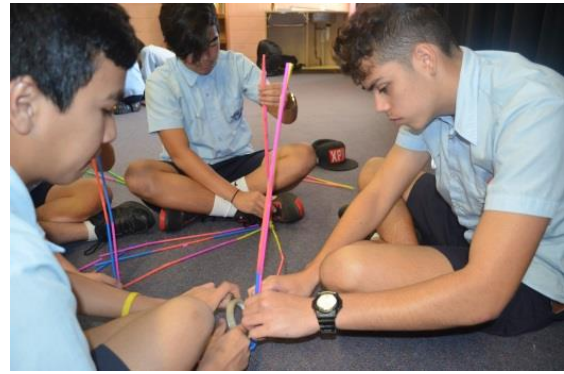
10 program was such a success. Huge thanks also go to Mr Potter and all the other staff involved in running workshops and supervising excursions.



On a personal note, I'd like to thank Year 10 for a marvellous year and wish you all the best as you commence your Stage 6 courses. I look forward to catching up with you all in 2017 when I return from leave. Mr Potter will continue as Year Adviser in 2016 and I have every confidence that our Year 10 students will continue to thrive under his guidance.

Please enjoy all the photos of Year 10 during their fabulous month of activities!

Mrs Sally Jessop,
Year 10 Adviser



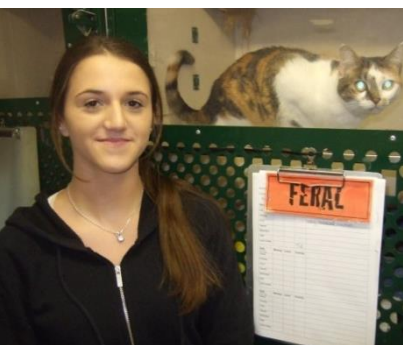
*Year 10
enjoying the
challenging
activities at
Tree Top
Adventure
Park!*



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Recently Year 10 students completed their second week of work experience this year. It was great to see students applying themselves in the workplace and helping out at what is a busy time of year for a lot of businesses. I hope that this second week has been helpful for students in clarifying what type of work they enjoy and would like to pursue in the future. Here are some photos giving you an idea of what they did for the week!





Pictures showing the range of venues Year 10 have worked at recently.



Nathan Potter
Careers Adviser



YEAR 10 PEER SUPPORT SUCCESS!

During the Year 10 Program, the Year 10 students participated in the Peer Support Leadership program. Students spent two days in small groups developing essential leadership skills including problem-solving, decision making, critical thinking and communication. The Peer Support Leadership program is to prepare the Year 10 students to be effective leaders of the Year 7 2016 orientation program. The students will be guiding a small group of Year 7 students through the important transition from primary school to high school early in Term 1, 2016.

The two days of training were a great success with students feeling more confident to lead Year 7 into high school.

Amanda Hull and Brenda Doran-Higgins



*Year 10 students modelling
their wonderful newspaper
fashions!
Enjoying team-building
activities in the gym with Mr
Potter (below).*



WELL DONE ON A GREAT EFFORT, YEAR 11!

Year 11 have had a fantastic year with many wonderful opportunities presented to them. Many Year 11 students acquitted themselves very well whilst on work placement, developing strong interests in hospitality, construction and the IT industry as possible steps in their after school lives.

The students have participated in many excursions this year, heading to the Downing Centre to see trials up close, a Coffee Bean factory, museum visits and a viewing a performance of Hamlet at the Opera House. Many students are also attending the Music Camp. These opportunities allow students to engage with their studies on an enjoyable and interactive level.

Students also participated in the 'Crossroads' program this year, which focussed on developing resilience in the face of hardship and developing strategies to deal with stress and hardship. These skills are essential for students as they progress through to their HSC. Along with the school's study skills program, Year 11 have had the opportunities to learn a great deal about how to best approach their studies and to achieve their personal best.

On a personal note I'd like to thank the students for welcoming me as their Year Adviser this year and for the general improvement of attitude and effort that the cohort is putting in as we move onto their final year of schooling.

Mr Rocco Bosco
Year 11 Adviser

THE HSIE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN BUSY! YEAR 12 VISIT THE COFFEE ROASTER!

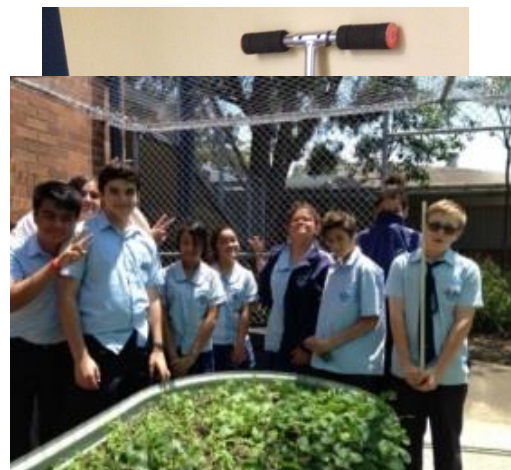
On a beautiful spring morning a group of Year 12 Business Studies students took a walk up Botany Road to visit a local business called The Coffee Roaster. The Coffee Roaster is a business specialising in fusing different types of coffee beans to create over 80 unique blends. The Coffee Roaster in Alexandria generously gave the Year 12 Business Studies class a tour around their premises. It was interesting to gain an insight into the inner workings of a business. We were shown what a coffee bean looks like before being roasted (personally, I didn't know they were green) and we learned about the roasting machines that the business uses, both of which were innovations developed by The Coffee Roaster.

The experience made one realise how much material and science goes into the production of something as seemingly simple as coffee. It's all very technical: the beans are stored when they're green so they don't deteriorate and, as part of their quality control, The Coffee Roaster ensures that each coffee bean has the right acidity, flavour and colour. We also learnt that the beans undergo a decaffeinating process called a Swiss Water process, which makes them free of chemicals. At the end of the tour, The Coffee Roaster gave the class free drinks and chocolate covered coffee beans. Through this experience the class is able to enhance their studies by applying the experience of real businesses to their work. Thank you so much to Dan and Peter for being so generous and welcoming. The experience of seeing a real business in action is sure to enhance the understanding of the concepts being taught in Business Studies.

FOUND!!



Quite a few school jumpers and a scooter! The owner of the scooter needs to come forward to collect before it is donated to a more needy person and if a jumper has gone missing particularly in the HSIE area, earlier this year, we may have yours. Please call in the office to check before the end of term.



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY HAS BEEN GROWING THEIR OWN FOOD!

In Term 4, Mrs Leong's Year 8 Geography class learnt about how people and the environment affect our ability to grow plants for food and clothing. As part of that exercise we thought we'd try and grow our own food. Year 8 students used some space in the raised vegetable gardens behind the science block to plant lettuce and radish seeds. After almost 6 weeks some of our lettuce leaves are just poking out of the ground, but the radishes are thriving (despite the slightly bedraggled leaves), and will most likely be ready to harvest by the end of the term. Unfortunately, initial class taste tests were not always positive and we may need to donate the produce!

A WORD FROM MR SUTTON

It is now five years ago that Mr Topping and I started at J J Cahill MHS in January of 2011. Since those days I have worked with a large number of dedicated professionals who work day and night to make this school a better place. The school and staff have changed considerably since 2011 and the learning and attitudes of students continues to improve. What has been a constant during that time is the care, compassion and desire by the teaching and support staff to see students from JJ Cahill achieve their best.

This school is an essential reflection of Australian society in that everyone is welcome and it does not matter what your wealth, background or beliefs are as there is room for all to learn. It is public schools like this one that are barriers towards the forces that want to see migrants and people without wealth fend for themselves without support and guidance. It also allows young students to experience the diversity of life gained from an inclusive environment.

The concept of a 'fair go' starts with everyone receiving an education of equal value to ensure a society that we want to live in. This school is real, not a sound bite in this regard. I thank everyone with whom I have worked, for their support, guidance and ideas; I have learnt considerably whilst teaching, leading and riding here over the past 5 years. Mistakes are the key to your learning.

Mr Cameron Sutton
HT HSIE

ENGLISH/LOTE/DRAMA CONGRATULATES EVERYONE ON A PRODUCTIVE YEAR!

NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS – CREATING THE FUTURE



Education &
Communities



The end of the year is nigh. It is a time to reflect on the year's learning and educational experiences. It has been fantastic to see the progress of our 7-9 students in terms of their literacy growth and continued development in writing and comprehension skills. Year 9 created some terrific documentaries that challenged our students and drew out a new range of skills in technology and film production. All of our students are progressing in their skills in using the PEAL paragraph structure to build analytical responses. This is a key strategy to prepare our students for the rigours of the HSC.

Senora Perez has built a strong Languages program with Spanish and French on offer for our students to experience. The learning taking place in LOTE is dynamic and engaging. Students have strongly selected Languages for their courses of study for 2016.

Our Year 7's have settled in well and I congratulate them on finishing their first year of high school. I know Ms Hallahan has enjoyed the experience of teaching such a wonderful bunch of kids.

Our Drama students enjoyed an inspiring excursion to see BellShakespeare's Hamlet. It was amazing to see the reaction of our students, many of whom had never seen live theatre before.

The English Faculty has continued to actively engage in transforming the programs and courses of study to provide the best learning opportunities for the students at JJ. One big impact on developing our students as 21st Century Learners is the installation of our Interactive White Boards. Google Classroom is now a key learning tool across English/LOTE and Drama. Many of our students have really demonstrated how they can be critical thinkers and problem solvers using technology and web applications. A big thank you goes to Mr Sneddon and Senora Perez for their leadership in this area.



Speaking of Mr Sneddon (pictured, left), it is with great pleasure that we welcome him as a permanent staff member in the faculty. Our students will be the beneficiaries of his commitment and desire to create innovative learning opportunities.

We also welcomed Ms Tara Mylan, our new librarian into the faculty. She has done a wonderful job in beginning to transform our Library. I can't wait to see what 2016 will bring. She has big plans!

It is also with great pleasure that we announce that Ms Tamara Tickle will be with us again for 2016. She has been a wonderful asset to the faculty and indeed the school. She is a tremendously engaging

teacher and the students have come to appreciate her tireless commitment to their learning. She makes a terrific chocolate brownie, too!

We all wish the Year 12 students Of 2015, the very best of luck with their HSC results which will soon be available online. We hope they achieve their personal goals and enjoy a bright future. Congratulations to all the students who have achieved in English, Drama and LOTE this year. You may have topped the class or maybe you have achieved a personal best. Regardless, all achievement and all improvement is worth celebrating. I will tell Santa to leave an extra present for you at Christmas. I would like to thank all the team in the English Faculty: Mrs Doret, Mr Sneddon, Ms Hull, Ms Mylan, Ms Tickle, Senora Perez and Ms Hallahan for their undying enthusiasm, advice and hard work to ensure the learning opportunities are of the highest quality here at JJ. I could not do it without you all. We wish everyone in the JJ community a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday period. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2016.

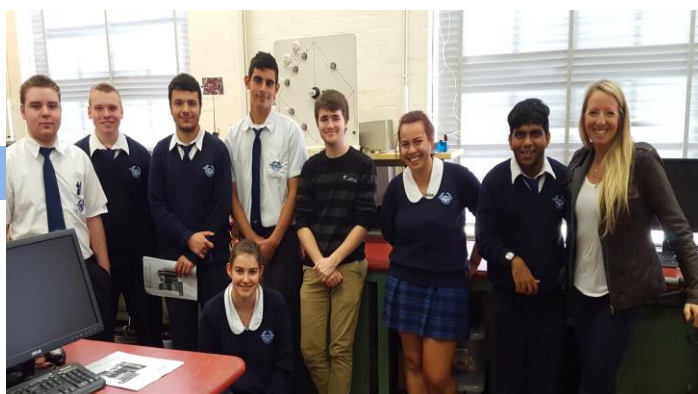
Mr David Gracie
HT English/LOTE/Drama

MATHS AND SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT

NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS – CREATING THE FUTURE



Education &
Communities



2015 has been an awesome year of learning in Maths and Science!

In November, year eight students participated in the Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development (VALID) test. The test was an interactive, multimedia test completed on the computer, to test the knowledge and skills of Year 8 students in Science. The diagnostic VALID test contained a multiple choice section, as well as a short response section and an extended response task that were grouped around real-world issues, including a simulated investigation. All of the tasks were framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the NSW Science Years 7–10 Syllabus. The Mathematics and Science Faculty would like to congratulate all Year 8 students on the way they conducted themselves during VALID and look forward to seeing student results in 2016.

In Term 3, the Year 11 and 12 Physics students had the opportunity to visit the University of Sydney to participate in the 'Kickstart' Science programme (pictured, right). Students participated in workshops throughout the day which were aligned with their syllabuses. They conducted a series of experiments including Super Conductors, Motors and Generators, Cathode Ray tubes and the Wilson Cloud chamber. They were able to see the work of Hertz, Lenz, Michelson-Morley and Einstein.

In Term 4, Year 10 Science students were presented with the unique opportunity to participate in an action research project through the University of New South Wales. The aim of the study was to find out whether problem-based learning is an effective approach to learning. Students worked together in groups to gather research whilst exploring an important open-ended question. We are excited to be continuing this problem-based learning research project with Year 9's next year as Year 10.

This year, students have shown an improvement in Maths and Science as a result of their willingness to learn and their engagement and participation in lessons. We encourage students to continue with their positivity towards learning next year. In addition, we urge all students to make a serious attempt at set homework and assignments to solidify and reinforce their learning. We encourage parents to promote and support their child in home learning and the completion of homework.

To aid in their home learning, students have access to two excellent online interactive learning resources: Mathletics and Into Science.

MATHLETICS IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT HOME!

To promote home learning, Mathletics is used in JJ Cahill Memorial High School and has been for a number of years. With dedicated interfaces for Y7-12 students, Mathletics caters for the evolving learning styles and requirements of students as they grow older. Containing all the activities, tutorials and support students need to exceed their curriculum goals.



Mathletics is a personal learning space for each student with customisable themes and avatars. Curriculum content can be assigned and controlled by the teacher.

It uses up to date Curriculum activities targeting the NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum outcomes, each one automatically evolving as students' progress in understanding. Pre and post assessment plus interactive and video support is also available.

Once students have completed all set tasks, they enjoy the fast-paced and exciting world of LIVE Mathletics. Students are matched with others from their class... or the other side of the

world! There is no more exciting, engaging or fun way to improve mathematical fluency!

- ☐ **Proven to improve results fast** with 24/7 access. More convenient and cost effective than a Maths Tutor.

- ❑ **Consolidates learning from the classroom** - based on the Australian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 12.
- ❑ **Instant feedback** with students able to work through the curriculum at their own pace.
- ❑ **Improve mental computation** building speed and accuracy, through Live Mathletics. Students can challenge others from all over the world.



We encourage you to take advantage of this resource and opportunity to enhance all learning in Mathematics.

INTOSCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT HOME!

A science education provides students of all ages with skills that help them in all areas of life. It develops strong problem solving skills and fosters an interest in exploring and understanding their world. IntoScience is a personal learning space for each student with customisable themes and avatars.

Thoroughly engaging 3D environments, virtual experiments and deep contextual examples, all fields of science are brought to life - simultaneously expanding learning through knowledge, application and reasoning for all students.



Students can conduct simulated experiments, visiting ecosystems from around the world, learn how to properly use a microscope plus much more. IntoScience will amaze and engage students. Students can compete against each other in "The Third Degree" which is a live multi player quiz. They can select their level of difficulty and work towards collecting enquiry points.

We encourage students to take advantage of this resource.

“ The fact that students see immediate results for their effort encourages them to try harder and do better ”

- Daniel Prinsloo (Secondary Teacher)
Suncoast Christian College



The Maths and Science Faculty wish you all happy holidays and look forward to seeing well rested, enthusiastic and keen to learn students in 2016.

Mrs Kelly Griffith
Relieving HT Maths/Science

WORLD YOGA DAY



For World Yoga Day, Mrs Griffith organised for a yoga instructor, by the



name of Chris, to come in and introduce us to Yoga. In my group, we were shown the Sun Salutations and many other yoga poses that relieved stress, built up flexibility and strength and helped us to relax. The atmosphere was peaceful due to the music that was played which contained very ambient sounds. Chris and Mrs Griffith also taught us a few words in the Sanskrit language that relate to yoga (see right). Overall, it was an amazing experience and it has inspired me to continue learning and practising yoga!

Louisa De Angeli, Year 12



SOME ADVICE FROM CAREERS

Careers Advisory Service – 1300 300 687 – www.cas.nsw.edu.au

NAVIGATE YOUR OPTIONS

18 Dec to 23 Dec 2014
9am - 5pm

Study at University
Locational Training
Take a Gap Year
Combine Work and Study

FREE
Careers Advisory Service
www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au
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Get online or call for free advice

NSW Education & Communities

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The Good Universities Guide 2016

to Universities and Other Higher Education Providers

With Independent 5-star Ratings

What will your education investment deliver?

The Good Universities Guide can help students to find a suitable university to study a preferred course. This can be viewed as an e-book here
<http://ebook.gooduniguide.com.au>

The Job Guide 2015 website is available in three versions:

- Graphic
- Text
- Mobile

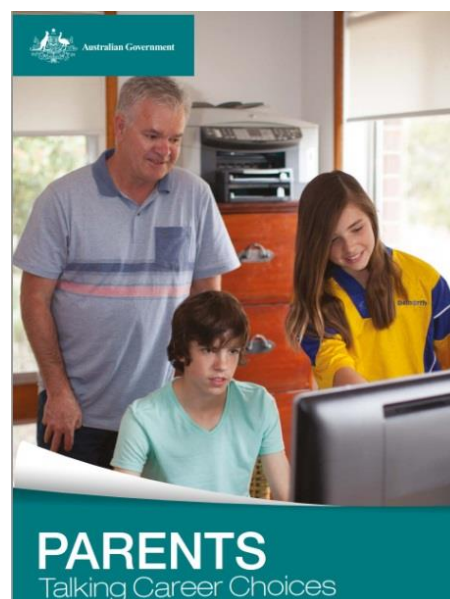
Text - suitable for slower connections and for users of screen readers

Mobile - suitable for viewing with your mobile phone

2015 JOB GUIDE
jobguide.education.gov.au

The Jobguide can be found here
<https://www.education.gov.au/job-guide> in graphic, text, or mobile versions

Parents - Talking Career Choices is a good guide for parents and carers to help their child to make informed choices about their career. This can be found at www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au in 24 different languages.



EXCITING NEWS FROM TAS!

The TAS Faculty have had a great year this year with all year 7 and 8 students completing their timber design projects and receiving a good grounding in Graphic design. Year 7 have been busy this semester preparing and presenting a variety of skills and techniques in the kitchen. They have been amazing with their food preparation techniques and hygiene skills. I hope the parents have been lucky enough to sample some of the tasty delights and see their children's skills in the kitchen.



Students from Year 7 and the Support Unit enjoying their TAS classes this semester.

Both Multi Media and Timber have made some excellent projects this Semester with Multi Media being involved in designing Posters for the PBL initiative. Look for them round the school next year. Engineering are in the middle of completing a bridge assessment and the test of their final design will occur next term, which I'm sure they are all excited about.



VET REPORT

Year 12 Hospitality has successfully completed their two mandatory work placements this year with lots of good feedback from employers in our community. Hospitality have been working on prepare sandwiches and participate in safe food handling practices developing skills to operate the school café next year.

Similarly, Mr Benazic's Construction class has completed all required projects thus far and most excelled at work placements. Sharni Keed, in particular, did exceptionally well, receiving high praise from all her work placements.

IDT students have progressed well in all areas and are looking forward to the coming year to pull together all their knowledge.

David Topping
Head Teacher TAS

NATIONAL LEADERS DAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE SRC

Members of the SRC, including the senior leaders, were generously given the opportunity to attend the National Leaders Day at Sydney Olympic Park. The day encompassed activities and a series of speeches spoken by prominent Australians whom are held in high regard for their wide range of achievements. Additionally, there was a Q&A session with each speaker.

Speakers included Jess Fox, an Olympian Silver Medallist in Kayaking, NSW premier Mike Baird and the CEO and founder of the AIME program. The theme of the convention was "Master The Little" which conveys the idea that big ideas and dreams for the future can be achieved by starting off small and working towards it. The program was inspiring and an overall amazing experience.

Zane Ashley
School Captain

SIDE BY SIDE: BRINGING FUN BACK TO FAMILY!



 Like us on facebook: 'Side by Side Project UTS'

*Do you feel like you have run out of answers for parenting your child?
Are you feeling stressed and overwhelmed?*

The Health Psychology Unit, UTS is offering a **free treatment** research program for families who have children with behavioural problems.

Clinical psychologists from the Unit located near Royal North Shore Hospital will see families with children aged 7-14 for up to 14 sessions.

For more information please contact Dr Rachael Murrihy on **9514 4077** or at Rachael.murrihy@uts.edu.au

Website: www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/health-psychology-unit

Thank You

We would like to give a special **"THANK YOU"** to the following businesses who kindly donated bursaries for our students at J J Cahill Memorial High School and who have supported our school this year.

VIZZONE RUGGERO TWIGG LAWYERS

SYDNEY GRAPHIC ARTS CLUB

LEN SCHMIDT MEMORIAL FUND

SYDNEY CREDIT UNION

SOUTHS SYDNEY JUNIORS

REUBEN F SCARF

MASCOT CHARCOAL CHICKENS