

'WINGS'

J J Cahill Memorial High School
school newsletter

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HONOUR

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 6 Term 4

November 2016

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COMING EVENTS

Year 9 and 10 Yearly exams commence	7 November
Year 10 Survivor Life program	24 November
Year 9 Aspire Program UNSW	25 November
Year 6 Orientation Day	1 December
Year 10 Work Experience	5-9 December
Presentation Day	13 December
School Picnic	14 December
Last day of school year	16 December
Start of Term 1, 2017	30 January

**RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S
MESSAGE****A BUSY START TO TERM 4!**

Term 4 has begun with its usual busyness, excitement and activity. Year 12 began their HSC exams. Year 11 began the term with a mandatory personal development Crossroads program before they had their exams and results returned to them and commenced their Higher School Certificate courses. All Year 7-10 students responded to the 'Tell Them From Me' survey to provide the school further information about their learning experiences.

Participating Year 7 and 8 students will be attending the Great Aussie Bush Camp for three days of activities, learning, development and exploration. I am sure they will enjoy their time and each other's company. Thank you to Ms Bonnaci, Mr Gracie and Mr McNaught for their shared approach in organisation and preparing students as well as other teachers for devoting their time to make the camp possible.

We have inducted our new school captains, Nicole Koernia and Aleyshia Jimenez-Wafer, as well as the School Representative Council. For 2016-2017 Ms Griffith will coordinate the SRC and it will be led by presidents, Gia Kelaiditis and Silofa Mantan and supported by Kaea Murphy.

A SURGE IN ENROLMENTS

The school is enjoying a recent increase in student enrolment and as always we are happy to welcome new families to our school. JJCMHS has a lot to offer and share to the families in the local community with a diverse curriculum and many opportunities available to students in the form of sport, performing arts and leadership.

Thank you to those families who have recently recommended the school to their friends. Student enrolment increases impacts the number of teachers appointed to the school and in turn that increases the number of classes and then subjects we can offer to students. This positive news is also testament to the great work our teachers and students, and all support staff, are demonstrating in the classroom and the way our school is presented in the local community.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CAN DRIVE!

Miss Lawson and the Year 10 Commerce class have launched an initiative of community support. They have asked their colleagues and staff to donate cans of food to provide the homeless.

I am delighted to support this initiative and am proud that we have the passion and empathy to help those less fortunate than ourselves. I thank you in advance for your contributions to this worthy cause.

John Mifsud,
Rel. Deputy Principal



RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

CREATIVE WRITING COMMUNITY!

Three weeks have gone already - the term goes so fast! Our Community of Schools is underway beginning with some fantastic Creative Writing Workshops at Mascot Public School and Eastlakes Public School. My thanks to Ms Empacher and Ms Psarras, respectively, for welcoming us into their school to engage in some terrific learning. Some of our Year 10 girls assisted in the activities and I thank them for their community spirit and their passion for learning.



These workshops (pictured) would not have been possible if not for the hard work of Ms Tickle, who spent hours in preparation and research to deliver high quality learning, targeted at our Primary School students.

The slide presentation, booklets, certificates and other resources were of an excellent standard and the feedback from our Primary School partners enabled us to learn from the experience.

Of course, these learning experiences do not run smoothly without support and collegiality. Thank you to Ms Doran-Higgins for your support in making these workshops a great success.

GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP YEARS 7 AND 8

School Camp is this week. It is great to see all the students from Year 7 and 8 participate in what will be and experience of a lifetime. We promise to take extra care of your children and return them safely. My thanks to Ms Bonacci-Edelkoort for all her organisation and effort. So many hours outside of school time go in to organising a school camp. She has been fantastic. My thanks also go out to Mr McNaught for his contribution to the organisation and support of the camp.

I look forward to reporting back all our experiences from The Great Aussie Bush Camp with plenty of photos to show our school community all the fun we had.

Parents, with our Year 11's now becoming Year 12's, please ensure you stay in touch and let me know if you require any assistance and support to help your child through their HSC year. Our discussion can always help a young person get through the stress and challenges of this year, and together, we can guide them to great success.

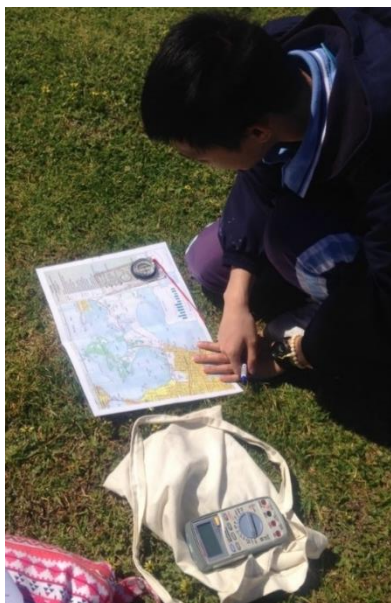
David Gracie
Relieving Deputy Principal

I learnt so much from the experience and I look forward to bringing my learning to JJ to improve how we teach, what we teach and how to improve learning for our whole school community. Listening to Mr Dib was particularly inspirational and a great privilege.

I wish all of HSC students the very best for the upcoming months of study, examinations and hopefully, celebrations.

David Gracie,
Rel. Deputy Principal

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION



After 2 aborted attempts due to extreme weather, Year 10 Geography students were finally able to attend their Coast Management excursion to Cronulla. The students had a great day learning about the natural and manmade changes occurring on the coastline and explored a range of management strategies. This included building model dunes on the beach and seeing the impacts of different weather events and human activity on the dune models.

The students were also able to gather a range of primary data about the dunes by using equipment not typically available in schools.



A day of wonderful weather which made up for the two previous cancellations and it was a pleasure to enjoy it and the learning experience together.

Thanks to Mr Kelleher for driving us to Cronulla and back.

Meg Hallahan,
Head Teacher HSIE

A MESSAGE TO YEAR 9 FROM MR DRABSCH

As students become more mature they often commence working part-time within the community. Part-time work provides many students with opportunities to develop social contacts outside of school, to learn new skills, increase in maturity, and attain some economic independence. I recently spoke to Year 9 about some key issues in their workplaces. Of students who are working in Year 9 not a single student could tell me what their hourly rates of pay were, what breaks and conditions they may be entitled to, what an Award of Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) is or where a copy can be found or any information about Workplace Health and Safety. After a discussion on these important work topics I asked students with part-time employment to complete 4 simple tasks in the next two weeks. They are:

- 1 - Find a copy of their Award or EBA
- 2 - Work out what their hourly pay rate is
- 3 - Check their hourly wage is calculated correctly against the hours they worked on their payslip
- 4 - Ask about WHS.

While the school supports students working part-time and students enjoy the economic freedom that part-time work brings we encourage parents and students to have a conversation about what is an appropriate amount of work and to further consider the value of not only completing their education but directing their energies towards developing the attributes of perseverance, resilience, and determination to succeed in their education and what opportunities a well-rounded education may potentially bring post-school. In a way it can be considered as 'short-term pain for long-term gain.'

YEAR 9 EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS

Year 9 students were issued with their Term 4 Assessment schedules on Wednesday 19th October. This was also issued to them via e-mail. I encourage students to sit with their parents and develop a study plan that will enable them to map-out a study schedule that will A) assist students to successfully manage their time and manage stress loads in preparation and, B) Give students the opportunity to begin their study schedule NOW to give them the best opportunity to perform at their peak when completing their upcoming assessments and exams. If students require assistance in developing a study plan, study skills, and time management they should come to see me at their earliest convenience.

Ricky Drabsch,
Year 9 Advisor

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS WITH OUR LOCAL PRIMARY STUDENTS

Over the past few weeks, as part of the Community of Schools initiative, our school has been establishing educational links with our local primary schools. On the 18th and 27th of October, Mr Gracie and I, along with the help of Ms Doran-Higgins and selected Year 10 students, have facilitated creative writing workshops with year 5 and 6 students at Mascot Primary School and Eastlakes Primary School.

These workshops involved students engaging with a variety of activities surrounding the theme of "pure imagination"; allowing us to experience and understand the way primary school students learn while providing these students a chance to experience how we approach creative writing in high school.

These workshops would not have been such a success without the support of Mr Gracie and the hard work of our Year 10 helpers. I would like to commend Ceyda Sevgin, Jess Jebulan, Tasi Folau, Kody Millar, Megan Reid, Chloe Keed, Gia Kelaiditis and Jenna Baziotis on their efforts in assisting and inspiring the primary school students with their work.





These students have demonstrated strong leadership skills and have been positive role models and representatives of our school during these workshops.

It has been wonderful to see these girls shine and for some realise a passion for working with children and teaching. I would also like to thank Mr Mifsud for allowing me to run with his idea for the workshop and the opportunity to be part of this extremely rewarding teaching and learning experience.

Tamara Tickle,
English and Maths

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

On Friday 28th of October, students of Spanish in Years 7, 8 and 11 celebrated ***Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead)**, which is a holiday whose intricate history is intertwined with the history of Mexico and Mexican culture.

There are many peoples and cultures throughout the world, and each one has its own ways of coping with loss. In Mexico, **The Day of the Dead** is practiced on November 1st and 2nd, during which papercraft decorations are used to decorate homes and special foods are prepared, such as *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead). *Ofrendas* (offerings) of flowers and favourite foods and drinks are placed on an *altar* to honour and remember deceased loved ones. Students participated in, making traditional decorations, sugar skull face painting, Mexican paper craft *cempasuchtil* (paper marigolds), as well as practising their Spanish speaking skills on the eve of ***Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead)**.

During the event we had various activity stalls where students could practice their speaking skills as well as a film screening of the animated film **The Book of Life** (PG, 2014).



GIFTED AND TALENTED ENRICHMENT CLASS 2017

In 2017, we will be introducing an exciting new program at JJ Cahill Memorial High School. This program aims to identify gifted and talented students and extend their higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

Gifted and talented students may be found in all communities regardless of their socio-cultural or socio-economic backgrounds. Factors such as motivation, self-esteem, gender, peer pressure, socio-economic, socio-cultural, and linguistic and disability may prevent or delay identification of gifted and talented students.

Some talents may not become obvious until a student has reached a particular level of maturity or been exposed to particular areas of endeavour. Giftedness and talent may occur in many different areas including the creative and performing arts, academic subjects, social and leadership skills, technical and computing skills as well as sporting interests.

Drawing on nominations from a variety of sources, 15 students from years 7-10 will be selected to participate in a Gifted and Talented Enrichment Class. This class will challenge students to push their existing work levels and provides further opportunities to utilise their intellect and creativity. Each of the students in the class will be linked to a teacher mentor who helps guide their ideas and assist in editing their work. These students will be withdrawn for four periods per fortnight to complete collaborative and individual projects.

Students involved in the class will be withdrawn for four periods per cycle. Time will be split between extra-curricular activities, excursions, group tasks and individual projects. In consultation with their teacher mentors, students will develop three individual projects per-year based on the ACARA cross-curriculum priority areas. Each project will be different in scope depending on the student's strengths and interests. It will involve a creative element and extended written component.

Students who enter the program are expected to maintain strong attendance levels and sign contracts indicating that they will catch up on work missed during allocated periods. Feedback from work completed in the Enrichment Class will be included in semester reports and with negotiation from head teachers, tasks may act as alternative assessment for core and elective subjects.

If you think your child would benefit from this, please complete our online *Parent nomination form*: <http://goo.gl/forms/WXDxs9T7c0>

Similarly, if you are a student in years 7 to 9 and would like to be involved in this exciting program or know a friend who'd enjoy it, you can complete a:

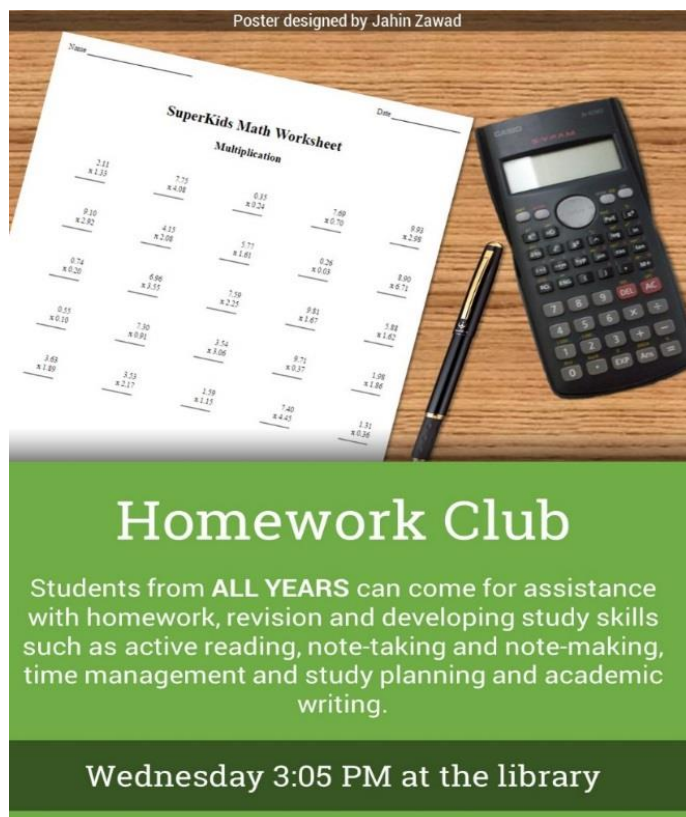
Self nomination form: <http://goo.gl/forms/IY0gThChCv> or

Peer nomination form: <http://goo.gl/forms/BNyK5fkvSy>

If you would like further information, feel free to contact me.

Thomas Fienberg,
Rel. Head Teacher English/Drama/LOTE
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Poster designed by Jahin Zawad



SuperKids Math Worksheet

Multiplication

Students from **ALL YEARS** can come for assistance with homework, revision and developing study skills such as active reading, note-taking and note-making, time management and study planning and academic writing.

Wednesday 3:05 PM at the library

TECH NEWS



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE @ J J CAHILL MHS

As part of our ongoing mission to deliver the best possible educational experience to our students, through utilising innovative technologies and learning tools in our classrooms, we are excited to announce that **BYOD** (Bring Your Own Device) is landing at J. J. Cahill Memorial High School, Term 1 2017.

WHAT IS BYOD?

Put simply, BYOD is a programme where students quite literally bring their own devices to school in order to access the Internet and school resources via the school WiFi, be it a laptop, tablet or in certain situations, a mobile phone.

BYOD enhances student ownership of learning tools, and helps students to transition from using devices as novelty items to understanding their function as tools for learning.

**BYOD@JJCMHS IS NEW,
BUT YOUR DEVICE DOESN'T HAVE
TO BE.**

If you own an existing device that meets the minimum requirements to be used at school,

then you're ready to go! In many cases, the addition of an inexpensive WiFi dongle/adaptor can make most laptops compatible with Department of Education infrastructure, helping you get BYOD-ready as easily as possible!

THE PORTAL.

To help make BYOD as simple and effective as possible, we have developed an online portal that includes information to assist in the decision making process. You can explore what BYOD means for you and your children at your own pace, with useful information about minimum device specifications required, ways to source your devices and software available to install.

We want you to have the freedom to choose, so in getting ready for 2017, you can purchase any compatible device (that meets our minimum requirements) from any retailer. With end of year sales and the holiday period just around the corner now is the ideal time to start thinking about your child's learning potential in 2017 and planning for BYOD.

For further details, visit

www.jjcmhs-byod.com



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