

## 'WINGS'

J J Cahill Memorial High School  
school newsletter

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HONOUR

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 7 Term 4

December 2016

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**COMING EVENTS**

Presentation Day	13 December
School Picnic	14 December
Last day of school year	16 December
<b>2017</b>	
Start of Term 1 - Years 12, 11 and 7	30 January
Start of Term 1 – rest of the school	31 January

**RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S  
MESSAGE****ANOTHER BUSY YEAR IS COMING TO A CLOSE!**

2016 has been another successful year at JJCMHS with school data showing growth in many areas. In earlier newsletter issues we presented our success in improving school NAPLAN results as well as whole cohort development with student growth recorded as twenty points higher than state average.

Our school's additional funding for 2016 was directed towards student learning. The School has had a focus on directly improving the literacy and numeracy skills of our students. This funding was used to employ Ms Doran-Higgins as a literacy and numeracy consultant, leading staff with their delivery of explicit pedagogy.

For 2017, literacy and numeracy will continue to take priority and funding will also be used to release Mr Bosco to operate in the role of Head teacher HSIE, Visual Arts and Music. Additional funding will be spent on teaching resources to further enhance innovation and teaching in the classroom.

After much negotiation, scope variations and site inspections, construction for the garage for the school bus will commence at the end of the school year with an expected time of one month to complete the project. Coupled with the investment of the kitchen refurbishment we are committed to the improvement of school facilities for students to access modern technology and new equipment in their teaching and learning interactions.

## FAREWELL

This year we farewell some staff members who have made significant contributions to student learning and influenced the lives of so many students. Ms Bonin has had a transfer activated and will leave the school for Rose Bay Secondary College. Ms Hambly will be leaving us to commence her tenure at Picnic Point High School. I would also like to thank our temporary staff members who are also leaving this year. Ms Riley has been a part of the PDHPE team since Term 4, 2015 and has made a lasting impression on our students with her enthusiastic approach to teaching. Mr Graham will take up a teacher position in Special Education at another school. We wish all these teachers the very best for productive, effective and successful contributions at their new schools.

We are also saying farewell to Ms Eileen Ramsden, who has done a fantastic job relieving Ms Prelec as SAM throughout this semester. Ms Ramsden has taken ownership of the school administration and office management and assisted with the management of school finances. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours and know she will be a valuable asset to any school.

## NEW STAFF

In 2017 we welcome back Ms Jessop who will return after a year of maternity leave. She will be joined in the Visual Arts faculty by Mrs Kasparian (nee Christofi).

## ENROLMENTS

We still have some vacancies for 2017. 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.

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. Combined with innovation, successful strategies and a strong approach to wellbeing, JJCMHS offers a broad and diverse curriculum catering for student's needs and abilities. We have had many enrolment enquiries for next year and we currently enjoy an increase in student enrolments for 2017.

## END OF YEAR

To celebrate the academic year, the school has organised its annual Presentation Day for Tuesday 13 December commencing at 10:30 am. Our school picnic will be held on Wednesday 14 December at Nielsen Park, Vacluse. All students are encouraged to participate in this day and enjoy the celebration of a busy and productive year. Period 6 of Tuesday 13 December has been designated as the time students will be presented with their Semester 2 Reports during cohort presentations. School will conclude on Friday 16 December this year.

## SCHOOL RESUMES IN 2017

The 2017 school year will start on Monday 30 January for Years 7, 11 and 12 and on Tuesday 31 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.

Recently we sent out information to families to indicate changes to school organisation for 2017. Firstly, school sport for the whole school will be on Wednesday afternoons. This allows for a greater depth of selection for students to participate and provide better opportunity for training and development of specific teams. In the past, Thursday afternoon has seen an early finish to the school day, which allows staff to attend a program of scheduled meetings. This early finish of 2:13pm will occur on Tuesday afternoons from 2017.

## AND FINALLY.....

I would like to thank all the staff for their outstanding commitment to student learning and devotion to providing support and assistance to each student. The quality of learning taking place in classrooms, and all school contexts, from the

Library to the playground, shows a great, trusting and respectful interaction between teachers and students and even between students with the support they provide each other.

I would like to thank all the parents, community members and staff for their support throughout this semester in my role as Relieving Principal since Mrs Cowin took leave. The staff have embraced my ideas and strategies for school growth and what we want to provide our students and the community of Mascot. We have been able to establish working partnerships with our local primary schools, offer more whole-school opportunities, broaden the curriculum with an increase in subjects available to students, as well as promote the school with its facilities.

More specifically I want to acknowledge the outstanding work Mr Gracie has done in his role stepping up as Relieving Deputy Principal. It is a difficult role requiring the skill to balance so many demands from different people and aspects of the school all being directed to the office. He has provided so much support and guidance to me and I thank him for his enduring commitment to our students, staff and the school.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR FAMILIES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY BREAK.  
SEE YOU ALL IN 2017!

John Mifsud  
Rel. Deputy Principal



## RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### LET'S ALL THINK OF SOME THOUGHTFUL GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

The year is coming to a very quick end and now is the summer of great content. With Christmas around the corner, we begin to think about the past year; our achievements, our failures and all the events and experiences in between. We rush to the shops to buy gifts for Mum's, Dad's, siblings, Aunts, Uncles you name it. We spend big money to acknowledge the people who are important in our lives. We buy more food than probably need and make huge preparations for Christmas lunch or dinner and organise a holiday somewhere or a few trips to the beach. It doesn't matter what your religious or cultural backgrounds are, it is a busy time for everyone.

I urge you take a minute to realise that you all have gifts you can give for free and these gifts send a strong message of love and support to those around you.

This is the gift of.... YOU.

You all have the ability and capacity to give the gift of performing a random act of kindness, the gift of laughter, the gift of offering a helping hand, the gift of telling someone how much they mean to you.

It's all the little things you do that can send a big message to the ones around you and it makes this Christmas time, a time of togetherness that you will value more than anything.

It is in this spirit, that I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their support in assisting me over the last six months. The students and staff at JJ have been fantastic and I extend my thanks to our learning partners at Eastlakes, Mascot and Gardener's Road Public Schools for their interest and support in teaching and learning for us all.

As Relieving Deputy Principal for the second half of 2016, I extend to you all my very best wishes for the holiday season. I hope you enjoy this time with your families and return to us refreshed and ready for what will be an exciting year at JJ.

David Gracie  
Relieving Deputy Principal

## LIBRARY NEWS

### NEW TEXTS

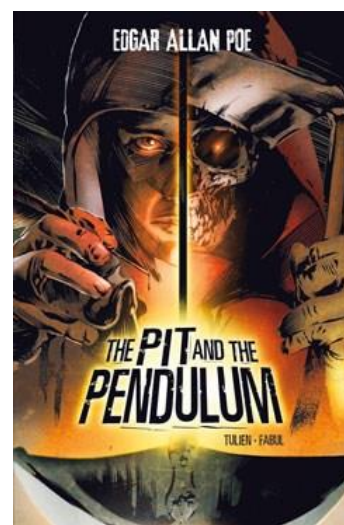


#### ***Swallow the Air* by Tara June Winch**

When May's mother dies suddenly, she and her brother Billy are taken in by Aunty. However, their loss leaves them both searching for their place in a world that doesn't seem to want them. While Billy takes his own destructive path, May sets off to find her father and her Aboriginal identity. Her journey leads her from the Australian east coast to the far north, but it is the people she meets, not the destinations, that teach her what it is to belong (goodreads.com).

#### ***The Pit and the Pendulum* (Edgar Allan Poe Graphic Novels) by Sean Tulien (Author), J.C. Fabul (Illustrator)**

This graphic novel adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's classic tale of terror visually explores the dizzying highs and horrifying lows of a prisoner sentenced to death by the Inquisition (goodreads.com). The story is about the torments endured by a prisoner of the Spanish Inquisition, though Poe skews historical facts. The narrator of the story describes his experience of being tortured. The story is especially effective at inspiring fear in the reader because of its heavy focus on the senses, such as sound, emphasizing its reality, unlike many of Poe's stories which are aided by the supernatural (wikipedia.com).



### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?

#### **Excursion to Harper Collins**



Ms Mylan and 6 budding authors including Jessica Jebulan, Kody Millar, Charlotte Gonzaga, Jenna Baziotis, Danniell Sebastian and Clarke Parkinson attended an excursion to Harper Collins Publishing agency for an outstanding day of creative writing workshops.

The day began with an intriguing presentation by Cristina Cappelluto, Harper Collins Children's Publishing Director where she discussed her job, it's multitude of tasks and her responsibilities.

Publisher, Chren Byng discussed the long and complicated process that went into publishing a book. Senior Editor, Eve Tonelli presented her session about what happens to the manuscript in the editing process.

Lisa White presented a session on how book covers are designed and to end the day, the author Alison Goodman talked to students about publishing her book "The Dark Days Club". Overall, the day was informative, fascinating and great fun for all involved.



## Author James Knight has returned to JJ!

JJ Cahill has been delighted to welcome back author James Knight! He presented a talk to students about the art of creative writing last term and he enjoyed his experience so much that he decided to come back and present several creative writing workshops to students throughout November and December. All students are welcome to attend these fabulous and inspiring workshops, which are taking place in the library at lunchtimes.



### 3D Printing

The 3D printer has been busy this term! Groups of students have been learning how to use the software *Tinkercad* during their lunch times in the library. Using this software, students learn how to create their own 3D designs and they are then able to print them and enjoy this amazing learning tool. In the photo you can see Nicholas Fisher of Year 7 who designed his own Tardis from using *Tinkercad*.

### And a little message from the Librarian....

The library has been the life of JJ Cahill this term with so much to enthral and engage learners. The 3D printer has seen a lot of action, James Knight has run creative writing workshops and students have been to Harper Collins to learn all about publishing. This term has seen All Your Own Work, Peer Support and senior skills workshops happening in the library as Year 10 prepares for the most important years of their schooling lives.

'Oliver' now has some well-developed lists of related texts for the Area of Study – Discovery, and there are copious new texts for students to choose from for their reading pleasure. Another exciting new development in the library is the arrival of 3 brand new Chromebooks! These Chromebooks start up with lightning speed and give students access to the internet immediately for all their research and assessment task needs. I envision that I will have 5 more of these Chromebooks by next year allowing students to develop their skills in ICT and develop their information literacy.

As a final note I would like to acknowledge all the staff and students who have made the library a magical place at JJ Cahill this year. I have had an enjoyable first year as the librarian at JJ Cahill and I look forward to all the opportunities to come in 2017.

Remember: if in doubt, visit the library!  
Tara Mylan  
Teacher Librarian

## ATSI GREAT TARONGA RACE!

On 22 November, six Year 8 students partook in 'The Great Taronga Race' at Taronga Zoo. This was a race developed by several ATSI students from across Sydney who were a part of the **Twugia** program. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Kyisha Sue in Year 8 was selected to be a part of this program due to her excellent NAPLAN results.



Led by Kyisha, our Year 8 students were required to use their numeracy skills to navigate their way around the zoo to different reference points.



At these points they had to answer specific questions about different animals and reptiles. Congratulations to Kyisha and many thanks to the Year 8 students who participated in the race.

Luke McNaught  
ATSI Programs Coordinator

## BRILLIANT SPORT RESULTS!

On 21 and 22 November, JJ Cahill Memorial HS hosted an under 14s and 16s Futsal tournament in the school gymnasium. Rose Bay Secondary College, Randwick Boys' HS, Cleveland Street Intensive English HS and Alexandria Park Community School were the other schools who took part in the tournament. It was an excellent two days of competition where a high standard of Futsal was displayed by all teams. Our under 14s team (pictured, right) were coached by Mr Fienberg and our under 16s team (below) were coached by Mr Goudis.



Our under 14s team were crowned champions as they went through undefeated and won the grand final 3-1 against a very strong Randwick Boys' team. Our under 16s team made the semi-final and lost in extra time 4-2 to Rose Bay, who subsequently won the grand final against Randwick Boys'.



a part of the competition.

Luke McNaught  
Senior Sports Coordinator

A special thank you to Ms Doran-Higgins, Kaea Murphy and Tasi Folau who helped run the tournament. A further thank you to Daniel Alter who refereed both days and did a fantastic job. Congratulations to both JJ teams and all other schools for being



## YEAR 7, YOU HAVE BEEN AMAZING!

With the school holidays just around the corner I would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of Year 7 in their first year of high school. Year 7 have demonstrated their commitment to learning and school participation throughout the year by playing a big role in school events such as Big Night Out, sporting competitions, camp and volunteering their time and skills to school initiatives. Year 7 have settled in well by making positive friendships that encourage collaboration, support and engagement in learning.

Students will receive their yearly reports at the end of term. I would encourage students and parents to reflect on the feedback given as this is a significant part of the learning process. Feedback from teachers will assist in creating learning goals for next year and reviewing the contribution students have made to their learning.

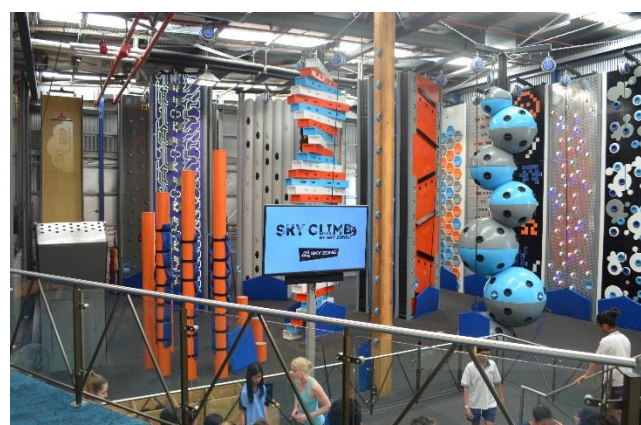
Congratulations and thank you to Year 7 for a wonderful year. It has been an absolute pleasure guiding you through your first year of high school. I look forward to 2017 and wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Octavia Bonacci  
Year 7 Adviser

## A REALLY POSITIVE YEAR FOR YEAR 8!

2016 has been a positive year for our Year 8 students. As a reward, Mr Potter and Ms Mylan organised for the year group to attend Skyclimb in Alexandria.

It was a great experience where Ms Mylan was able to show off her rock climbing skills in a unique setting. It was great



to see the students climbing and challenging themselves both physically and mentally.

The reward was validated further for Year 8 when a teacher from another school mentioned how fabulous and well-mannered our students were while they were at the complex.

Another year has gone by and I continue to look forward to the future. Have a safe and wonderful holiday Year 8. Bring on 2017!

Luke McNaught  
Year 8 Adviser

## A FINAL WORD FOR YEAR 9

Report season is again upon us and, as ever, it is of paramount importance for students to actually sit down and read their report with their parent or caregiver. Reports will generally comment on things a student has done well throughout the semester or year but will generally also contain advice for the student and identify an area in which the student can improve.

Use the reports as a conversation starter about what went well this year, what didn't go so well, and how we can all [student, parent, school] work together to achieve excellent academic and social results. **Academic excellence is expected at JJ Cahill Memorial High School and the core element of academic excellence for all students is sustained effort in and out of class.** Sustained effort means making not just a genuine attempt but each student trying their absolute best at every learning moment in and out of school. Some ways students can do this is to devise a reading plan where students are reading every single night and for a student in Year 10 I would suggest 25 - 30 minutes *on top of* any reading they do for school homework and assignments.

I would also suggest using the concept of 'mistakes' being an important part of the learning process as a guide to approaching education. Students CANNOT be afraid of making a mistake! This guiding principle urges students to tackle content and tasks in a deeper and more meaningful way. Yes, mistakes will occur but we expect that, otherwise the work is too easy, and using their resilience and grit students can learn from these mistakes to become better learners.

Luckily for me, I will be working on a part-time basis in 2017 working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and I'll be caring for my children on the other two days. As a result, I will be sharing Year Adviser responsibilities with Mr Stephen Theodorou. Mr Theodorou is a former School Captain and graduate of JJ Cahill MHS and has now returned as a teacher. Mr Theodorou is passionate about English and History as subjects and also has a keen interest in the social development of high school students.

Finally, I urge ALL students to make a trip to their local stationery store to prepare themselves for school in Year 10, 2017. Do this **BEFORE** the end of the school year and put it in your top draw at home so that you can hit the ground running in 2017.

Thanks again Year 9 for a great year: you are a wonderful group of young people, enjoy your holidays, spend time with your family, read plenty of books and take time to unwind.

Rick Drabsch  
Year 9 Adviser

## ALL READY FOR SENIOR STUDY, YEAR 10!

Year 10 have completed the All My Own Work Programme, which aims to inform and prepare students for the transition into Year 11 and Senior Study.

During this time, students have received advice about finances and how to budget, setting S.M.A.R.T. goals, time management strategies and how to plan for study in senior years.

More recently, the Peer Support programme has given an opportunity for group discussions and getting to know each other better. This programme is run with a view that students will nominate themselves to be Peer Mentors and help advise students commencing Year 7 in 2017.

Year 10 has also had the opportunity to go on 2 excursions in Week 8, The Manly Scenic Walk (pictured) was a great opportunity to take in some fantastic water views, go for a swim and complete a 10 km walk.



As Year Advisor I was very proud to see how appreciative Year 10 were to teachers on the day of the Manly excursion; we were thanked by many and even fed by students along the way!





Our Tree Tops excursion was also an opportunity to build self-confidence, push personal limits, help each other and enjoy the outdoors on a very hot day. We started the day with a small picnic gathering and went on to complete the challenges. This was a fantastic way to wrap up our Year 10 programme just before Work Experience in Week 9.

Señora Pérez  
Year 10 Adviser

## WELL DONE ON A GREAT EFFORT IN 2016, YEAR 11/12!

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. Students have participated in many excursions this year. Many students have also attended the Music Camp and the Studies of Religion excursion. These opportunities allow students to engage with their studies on an enjoyable and interactive level.

The first term of Year 12 has flown by and our students have been working well in their studies. Students were given a HSC Assessment Booklet 2016/2017 which contains vital information about the procedures and policies that govern HSC assessments and how to achieve your best in the year ahead. Students can collect a copy from the front office if they did not get one.

Students also participated in the 'Crossroads' program this term, 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.

*The fire brigade simulates a car crash recovery as part of the Crossroads program.*

By now all students should have made contact with their mentors and begun to meet with them on a regular basis. I encourage parents and carers to discuss this with the children and ensure that they are connecting in with their mentor and gaining the support and assistance they can provide.

On a personal note I'd like to thank the students for welcoming me as their Year Adviser this year and I would also like to say a big thank you to Ms Hallahan for all the support that she has given myself and Year 11 this year. I look forward to starting 2017 on a positive note, and encourage all students to enjoy the six-week break, so they come back refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to work hard!

Nathan Potter  
Year 11 Adviser

## NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN THE SUPPORT UNIT!

### LEARNING ALL ABOUT THE FIRST FLEET

This term the students of SU1 have been learning the history of The First Fleet and have heard many stories of convicts and settlers who came to Australia in 1788. The students studied the book *My Name is Lizzie Flynn* written by Claire Saxby which details the story of a young girl being transported to Van Dieman's Land on the boat named the Rajah.

To mirror the true story of the making of the 'Rajah quilt' on the voyage, the students of SU1 developed their own quilt block utilising numeracy skills of measurement and shapes to create our class version of a quilt.

The SU1 quilt has been hung in the school office foyer if you are keen to see the work.

Ms Doran-Higgins  
SU1 HSIE teacher



### AN EXCITING WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RUBY-ANNE!

Ruby- Anne's work experience went for one week at Bondi Vet where the famous vet Chris Brown practises. Ruby- Anne had to clean out the cages, and she was able to watch the vet perform operations on the different animals.

She was required to take the dogs for a walk and wash the animal's dishes and bedding. Ruby-Anne's favourite part of her work experience was being able to participate in the consultations between the vet and the people who brought their pets in because they were sick.

Next year Ruby-Anne hopes to commence a TVET course in Animal Care.

### CELEBRATING TARONGA ZOO'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

This year was Taronga Zoo's 100th birthday and we thought it would be the perfect time to go on an excursion there. Another reason was because it was half price. So on the 9th of November 2016, The JJ Cahill Support Faculty went on an excursion to Taronga Zoo.

The bus left the school at 9:30 AM and travelled along the M1. We saw the city buildings and crossed the Harbour Bridge on the way there.

When we arrived, we had recess. Then we looked at a bunch of reptiles like the taipan, the world's most venomous snake, some lizards and we also saw an iguana. We also saw the chimps, the gorillas, the koalas and the elephants. Don't forget the elephants!





it was Taronga Zoo's 100th birthday and it's gotten some changes. One thing was certain, we had a wonderful time there.

By Zawad Jahin  
Year 8

The Seal Show was amazing, and although I wanted to be one of the volunteers, I unfortunately wasn't chosen. At least it featured one of my most favourite hobbies, swimming.

The Bird Show was the next show we watched and Daniel absolutely loved it. At the bird show, we witnessed a bird stealing some money from a volunteer. Thankfully, he got his money back.

I know I've been to Taronga Zoo before, but it felt like a new place. It may be because the memories were a bit old or because

## AN END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE HSIE/MUSIC/VISUAL ARTS FACULTY

This term has been another busy one in our faculty!

Students have participated in a number of excursions, including trips to Cronulla beach, Katoomba, Cabramatta and the Great Synagogue and St Mary's Cathedral in the centre of Sydney. You will find reports and photos of some these activities below. Learning outside the classroom provides a great opportunity for students to see the relevance of their theoretical learning and it can take a great deal of effort to make these excursions happen. I give heartfelt thanks to the teachers who have organised and participated in these excursions.

Beyond this, staff are already busy preparing for the year ahead. In particular, our Geography teachers have been hard at work preparing learning programs for the new curriculum which will be implemented in NSW for years 7 and 9 in 2017.

As ever, Term 4 is also a heavy term of marking for teachers and assessment for students. We hope that, whether for an exam, performance, artwork or assignment, students will find themselves rewarded for their hard work and perseverance. If their results are a bit disappointing, may this be motivation to strive for improvements in the new year.

Next year will bring some change within the HSIE faculty. We have made the decision to 'semesterise' Mandatory Geography and History in Years 7-10. The same number of HSIE periods will be taught. However, for example, rather than having approximately 4 periods a cycle of both History and Geography throughout the year, students will have 8 periods of History in Semester 1 and 8 periods of Geography in Semester 2. We believe that this will enable students to delve more deeply and have greater continuity in their learning.

On behalf of all the staff in the HSIE/Music/Visual Arts Faculty, I thank you for another great year and wish you a safe and relaxing holiday.

Ms Hallahan  
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning

## ENJOYING A SUNNY DAY IN THE CBD – YEAR 12 STUDIES OF RELIGION

The Year 12 Studies of Religion class recently spent the day in the city of Sydney visiting two great places of religious worship – the Great Synagogue and St Mary's Cathedral. These are important places for the Jewish and Catholic religions and are both very beautiful and inspiring places to visit.

The class has recently been studying Judaism as part of our course and a visit to a real synagogue was a great way to see what we have learnt 'come to life'! We will be looking at Christianity in Term 1 next year so a quick visit to the

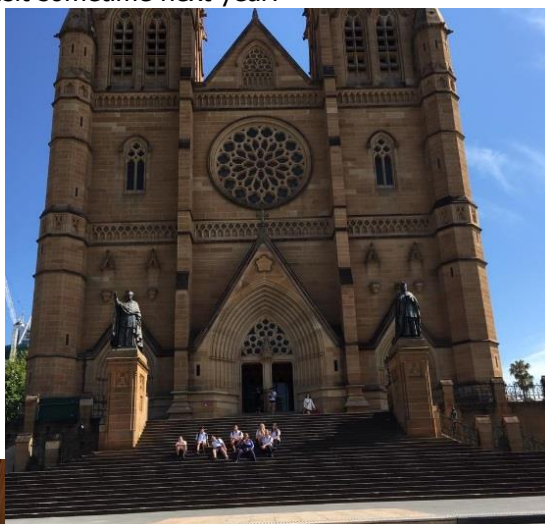


cathedral was too good a chance to pass up! Some of the students were so keen to do a tour of the underground crypt area we will have to make another visit sometime next year!

It was a lovely day out in our enjoyed looking briefly at the Jones windows as well as having a food hall.

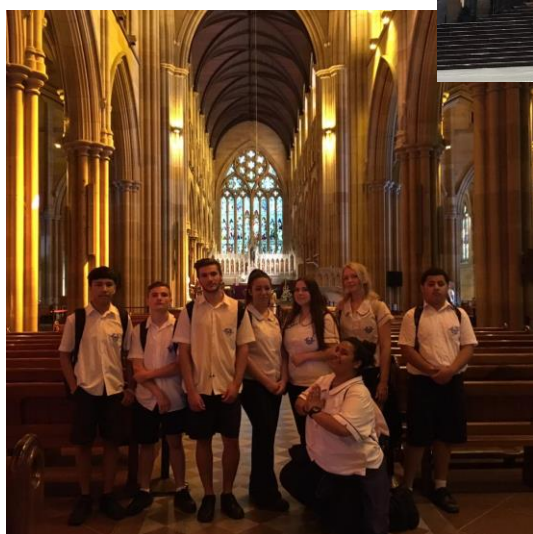
We are all looking forward to our Gallipoli Mosque at Auburn, which middle of 2017.

Katherine Doret  
Teacher, Studies of Religion



stunning city and we also Christmas displays in the David yummy lunch in the Pitt Street

next excursion – the Auburn will take place sometime in the



*Year 12 Studies of Religion visiting St Mary's Cathedral (above and left) and the Great Synagogue, Sydney (right)*



## SOME SERIOUS BONDING AT MUSIC CAMP!

In Week 7, the Year 12 Music class went on a 3-day camp to the Blue Mountains at Katoomba. The main purpose of the camp was to compose and record compositions for our first assessment task. Aside from the assessment, we went on walks and saw amazing views of The Three Sisters, Katoomba Falls and Wentworth Falls. I think I can agree to say that the class had an amazing time bonding with each other.

Beyond working individually, we worked together as a team to help others with their song writing. We spent the 2nd day/night recording our compositions and eventually finished at 5:30 in the morning of the next day! Those who were still awake went on a final walk to see the sunrise.

The food there was amazing, cooked by our fantastic teachers, Mr Fienberg and the vegetarian Mr Chapman. We had pesto pasta for the 1st night and the 2nd night we had spicy Mexican beans. For breakfast we had bacon and eggs (the vegetarian ate Halloumi) and for lunches we had chicken sandwiches.

It's quite sad that the camp finished so quickly, as we've become close like a family. But this trip will forever be an unforgettable experience for all of us. I would like to thank Ms Doran-Higgins for tagging along with us as the designated female teacher and Mr Chapman and Mr Fienberg for taking their time out of their lives to spend those 3 days with us and helping us with our compositions.

Tobias Alesana-Rennie  
Year 12

## AN UPDATE FROM TAS, VET AND PDHPE

### DEVELOPING SKILLS IN PDHPE

As the year concludes, it sums up another great year for PDHPE. Students have gained important knowledge within the classroom including consumerism skills, relationships, driver safety, celebrating diversity, healthy habits, overcoming diversity and much more.

Within the practical element of PDHPE, students have been able to develop their skills in athletics, netball, basketball, dodgeball, gymnastics, handball, hockey and the list goes on.

We look forward to implementing exciting new ways to deliver our content to the students in 2017.

Luke McNaught  
PDHPE Teacher



### PROFESSIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE TAS KITCHENS!

Due to the massive refurbishment undertaken this year by Dave Topping, TAS Head Teacher and senior construction students, the hospitality students now have access to the facilities in our new semi commercial kitchen where they are now working to develop their skills and knowledge in Food and Beverage.

This has provided a professional and well equipped space in which they can work individually or as a team to achieve experience in the necessary skills, leading to a nationally recognised qualification at a Certificate II level or statements of attainment towards it. The benefits enable students to gain confidence and enhance their practical skills. It is a significant employability skill for part-time and full-time employment or the attainment of an apprenticeship/ traineeship.

We would like to thank the School Principal, John Mifsud, and the Deputy Principal, David Gracie for their ongoing support in this project which will enhance the students' learning at JJ Cahill Memorial High School.



*Shakala, Jade and  
Nicholas from Year 12  
in our new kitchen*



Leeann Morris  
Teacher TAS

## YEAR 10 MULTIMEDIA – A NOTE FROM MR BIDWELL

It's been a big term and I've had the opportunity of filling in for Peter Herd's year 10 Multimedia class. This term the Multimedia students have been working on their folios for some great videos they have produced under the guidance of Mr Herd and learning techniques along the way to get them ready for their senior school years.

## ENGLISH HAS GOT TALENT!

## SOME AMAZING WRITING FROM YEAR 6 'COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS'

There have been some exciting initiatives happening in English this term. Miss Tamara Tickle and a fantastic team of Year 10 girls have been working closely with students from Eastlakes Public School on a 'Community of Schools' creative writing workshop. Some of the Year 6 students demonstrated such amazing talent that we decided to include a few samples for you to read.

### THE SURPRISING FOREST MARVEL

"It was a gloomy and spooky time of day as dusk slowly came. All of the colossal trees were kind of leading me to a mysterious path which made me curious. Something made me feel like I was a few steps from death and that's when I was alarmed.

As I walked a few steps I felt a sharp stick stab my hand and on that stick there was a strange and creepy phrase, which said "I WILL GET YOU" and next to that stick there was a picture of a werewolf with a tree on both sides of it.

As my eye scanned the horrible woods, I felt immediately horror-stricken and petrified I was also in agony as my hand was dripping with blood.

Suddenly an aggressive werewolf started to stampede towards me as fast as lighting...."

By Rajit, Year 6

### The Mysterious Miracle

"As I walked through the eerie forest, I was in great confusion. It was dawn already, gradually darkening. All I saw was misty fog surrounded by the tall and spiky trees. All I heard were loud wolf howls and bird chirps. This was extremely daunting, being lost in an abandoned forest by myself, I was very terrified.

I could smell a soft odour as if it had just rained heavily. I could feel the leaf branches brushing my shoulder as I walked slowly and cautiously tiptoeing on the rocky path barefoot. I was pretty certain that it was a sharp piece of glass that had poked me in the tip of my toe. Scarlet red blood started dripping swiftly onto the cold, hard ground".

By Angela Year 6



## YEAR 8 ADVERTISING SKILLS!

Year 8 have just finished a unit of work on the advertising industry. They had great fun writing and filming a 40 second advertisement for a "useless product" as well as designing a matching poster. Look out for some of the advertisements next time the English Faculty runs a Thursday assembly. Meanwhile, please enjoy two wonderful examples of the posters created by 8B.



## WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

A selection of Year 10 and 11 female students (pictured) were given the privilege to attend the L'Oréal Australia Girls in Science Forum at UNSW to gain inspiration and insight into what it's like to be a female scientist.

We first sat among other schools to listen to a group of women who are accomplished scientists, studying things like evolutionary biology and atmospheric chemistry. Though these scientists had varied views, they were all able to give female students encouraging answers to what science will bring to our future and give us a unique view on what being a woman in science is all about.

Next, people from the Aspire program took us around to the laboratories and explained what some of the machines in the labs did. One of the most impressive was a multimillion-dollar 3D printing machine which could print using the toughest metals and plastics.



After lunch, we were taken to the Museum of Human Diseases. We were warned before entering that some of the things we would see might at times be too intense... we were not disappointed. There were samples of nearly every disease that could be found in the human body, some which we never knew existed. We saw diseases to the lungs, limbs, kidney, liver, heart, and brain. There would always be a story behind the samples, and the people who owned them; most times the story was too bizarre and disturbing to hear more.

We would like to thank Mrs Griffith for allowing us this awesome opportunity. It was an amazing experience, giving us insight and feelings of aspiration to accomplish great things as women in science. Through this, we also encourage others to pursue a role in science and not be afraid of putting ideas out there.

Alexandria and Vivien  
Year 12

## ALL THE LATEST INFO FROM CAREERS

### YEAR 9 AT UNSW ASPIRE PROGRAM

A group of Year 9 students recently attended the University of New South Wales to participate in the Aspire program with other schools within the Sydney region.

Students visited the faculty of Environmental Science and toured the faculty's green house and insect animal lab. Students also visited the Business and Law faculty and debated the topic "People should only be allowed to use Facebook once they turn 18".



*Year 9 students enjoying the theatricality of the Law faculty (above) and relaxing on the lawn (left)*

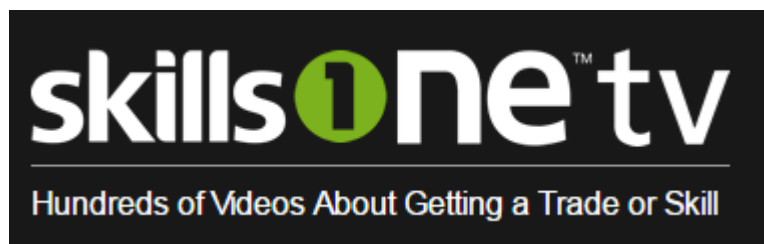
### SOME HELPFUL CAREERS RESOURCES

The **Careers Advisory Service** gives students and their families or caregivers up to date information about the range of relevant career and study options available following the release of the Higher School Certificate results by the NSW Board of Studies Teacher Educational Standards (BOSTES). **Phone** 1300 300 687 or visit the website for support.



[www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au)

[www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au)

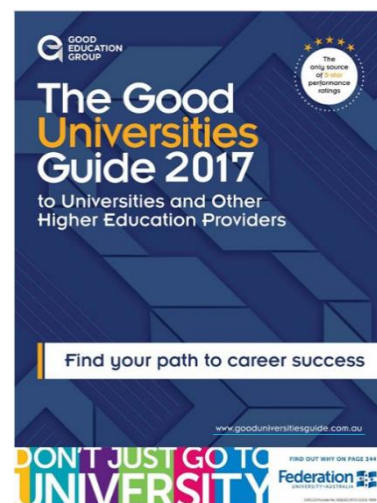
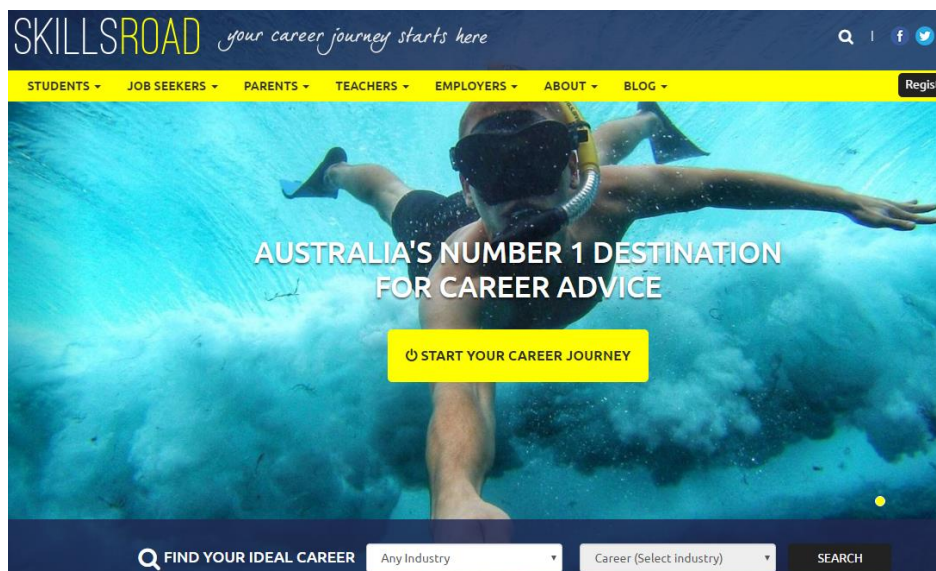


## SOME AMAZING CAREERS RESOURCES

*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>

[www.skillsroad.com.au/home](http://www.skillsroad.com.au/home)



*Ultimo TAFE have developed a music specific website aimed at highlighting their courses that relate to skills within the music industry. Visit [tafemusic.com](http://tafemusic.com)*



### Music Course Info & Enrolment Help

TAFE Ultimo, Building M  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm in M1.15

**INFO SESSIONS**  
Every Tuesday in Nov  
6:30-8:00PM  
Level 1, Rm M1.07

**Click here to register your interest**







*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 [docs.education.gov.au/documents/parents-talking-career-choices-0](http://docs.education.gov.au/documents/parents-talking-career-choices-0)*

[www.aatinfo.com.au/Career-Resources/Career-Services/National](http://www.aatinfo.com.au/Career-Resources/Career-Services/National)



## 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. A range of pictures from Year 10 work experience follow.







## YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY GETS GOOEY IN THE SCIENCE LABS!



## SRC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Earlier this term, I had the opportunity along with Silofa, Aisha and Mrs Griffith, to attend the Grip Student Leadership Conference at Sydney Olympic Park. The only negative aspect of the day was waking up so early to get there on time, but everything else made the experience amazing, and by the end of the day, I didn't even care that we had to wake up earlier than usual.

The conference was an amazing experience to sit through, watch and listen to what everyone was saying. The conference began with playing a game of Leader Mon, where we went around meeting new people from different schools and filled out a list of certain things people can do and have done.

Once we were finished with that, there was a Loud Noises segment where we could have a laugh, and just let go of any side tracked energy. We attended many workshops including The Compass of Leadership, Making Assemblies Amazing, Generating Ideas that are Outside of the Box, Overcoming the Challenges of Leadership, turning an Idea into Action and Seeking the Support of Your Peers.

My favourite session was Overcoming the Challenges of Leadership. In this workshop, we spoke about how to break down all the challenges you may face, and how to overcome those challenges.

Throughout the day, there was a lot of working with people from other schools, and just meeting new people in general. At the end, there was a final Loud Noises segment where they got me up on stage, and they tried to have a dance off. This was way out of my comfort zone, and I can proudly say that I lost, and that I probably made myself look like a fool, but in the essence of the day, I had a really fun day, and a very insightful day!

A message that will always stick with me is that 'If you want something to succeed, start in a place with We Can,'. Thank you to Mrs Griffith for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference.

From Gia Kelaiditis  
SRC President



## SAILING AWAY

Late this term, three students from Year 9 were selected to participate in Freedman Foundation's Sailing program which aims to engage young people from across New South Wales in sailing, an activity they would not likely have an opportunity to do. Shekira, Tennessee and Clarke from Year 9, along with myself, spent two days on Sydney Harbour



learning how to control and race a small sailing boat. As a team we completed several challenges and competed in a number of races against students and teachers from other schools. We also were privileged to watch several of the Sydney to Hobart boat teams, including Wild Oats, practicing drills and racing in the harbour.

We would like to thank Pam and her team from the Freedman Foundation and our awesome instructors, Yahlma and Rosie, for a wonderful two days and Mr Gracie for the opportunity to attend.

Ms Doran-Higgins



## 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 endeavor. 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:

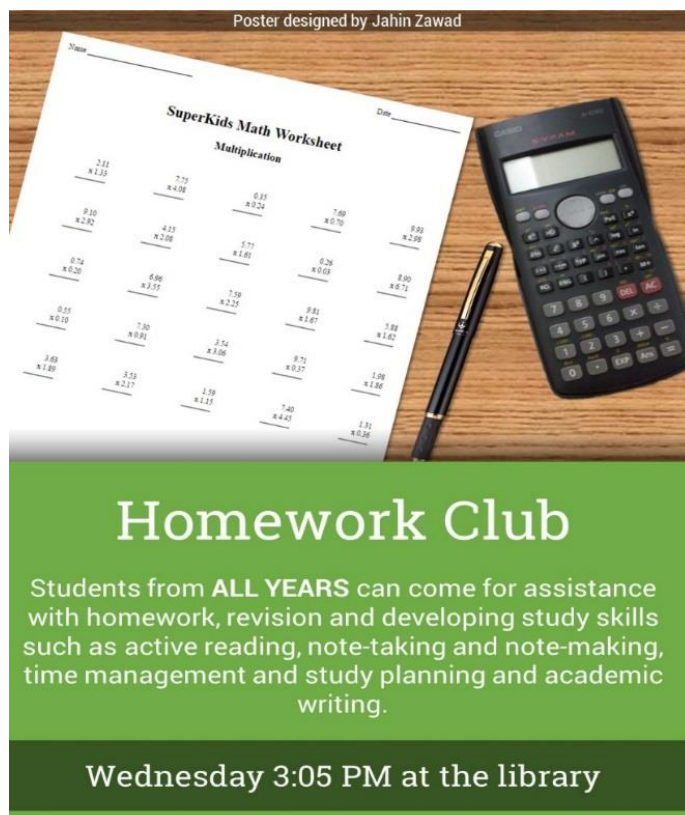
*Self nomination form*: <http://goo.gl/forms/IY0gThChCv> or

*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  
96695118 (ext. 114)  
[thomas.fienberg1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:thomas.fienberg1@det.nsw.edu.au)

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.

**Homework Club**

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](http://www.jjcmhs-byod.com)

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## **DAWN MASSES - COMMENCING FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER AT 5AM**

**Experience the unique preparation for the coming of Jesus through the Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Dawn Masses.**

**A Dawn Mass (Misa de Gallo) will be celebrated in our Parish every day at 5.00am up to and including Saturday 24 December.**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE - SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER**

**3.00pm Spanish Christmas Mass**

**5.00pm Christmas Vigil**

**12 Midnight Solemn High Mass**

## **CHRISTMAS DAY - SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER**

**8.00am Mass (Italian)**

**10.00am Solemn High Mass**

**12 noon Filipino Christmas Mass followed by  
Gathering in the Hall**

**No 5PM SUNDAY EVENING MASS**