

'WINGS'

J J Cahill Memorial High School

school newsletter



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HONOUR

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 3 Term 2

June 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Principal's Message	Page 1
Deputy Principal's Message	Page 3
Library News	Page 5
Big Band and Scholarship news	Page 7
ATSI	Page 7
Cross Country	Page 8
PDHPE	Page 10
Anzac Day	Page 10

COMING EVENTS

06 June ... Year 10 History Excursion
 09 June ... Year 9 Aspire
 10 June ... Year 10 Aspire
 13 June ... Queen's Birthday public holiday
 14 - 17 June ... Year 10 Work Experience
 21 June ... Zone Athletics Carnival
 24 June ... Year 10 Geography excursion
 27 June ... Years 8 and 10 Subject Selection evening
 29 June ... Drama performance evening
 30 June ... NAIDOC Assembly
 01 July ... Last day of Term 2
 19 July ... School resumes for all students.
 HSC Trials commence.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME

To those new students at our school, a warm welcome is extended to you and your families on behalf of your teachers, the administration staff and fellow students. If you need assistance please see your Year Adviser or one of the ladies in the office. You have made a good choice. Make sure you make the most of the opportunities presented here.



CONGRATULATIONS

Two of our Year 11 students have gained placement at the NSW Department of Education Music Camp. Toby Alesana-Rennie and Rafael Lima have been rewarded for all their hard work. I extend congratulations on behalf of the staff and also our P&C. We are all very proud of their accomplishments. The costs for the camp have been funded by our P&C, which is a very generous gesture, and I'm sure it will be appreciated by both students. Mr Fienberg has also been selected to provide tuition at the camp and we are equally as proud of him.



Congratulations to Marnie Hardy and Cynthia Ngabire who each recently gained a Youth Scholarship (see news from Ms Hallahan p7). Well done to both of them!

Mr Mifsud and I had the privilege of attending a recent Council meeting for the City of Botany Bay. The occasion was the presentation of the 2016 Lionel Bowen Scholarship. This year it was awarded to Timothy Clifford who is a former J J Cahill MHS student. Tim was an earlier recipient in 2006 when in high school and battling indeed to stay at school.



He is now studying at university as a mature age student. It was wonderful to hear from Tim and hear how he has matured in his perspective. He was appreciative of the time he spent here as well as the assistance given to him by his teachers, especially Ms Marg Holdman and also former Head Teacher and more recently former local Councillor, Ms Anne Slattery. The meeting was followed by a formal dinner in the company of the Mayor, Ben Keneally, Deputy Mayor, Stan Kondilios, other local Councillors, Lionel Bowen's daughter, Mrs Margaret Dwyer, and former NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally.

Congratulations also to Mr Potter and Mr Armson who each recently gained a rigid vehicle licence after a very rigorous day of testing. This will allow Mr Potter and Mr Armson to drive our School bus for the many excursions and sporting events we have.

Ms Patrick and her husband have welcomed a baby girl on 10 May and Ms Griffith, our former Science teacher, and her husband have welcomed a baby girl on the 12 May. I have extended best wishes to both families.

J J IS DOING WELL – POSITIVE FEEDBACK

A recent survey of students, *Tell Them From Me*, has provided some very encouraging statistics both at the local school level and in comparison to other schools across NSW. On all areas surveyed, for our students, there is a pronounced improvement both in the welfare and well-being area and in the learning domain. Our students' perceptions marry in well with the improved results we have seen in the last two years, particularly NAPLAN and the HSC.

This feedback and our constantly increasing enrolment figures, including a strong number in Year 7 for 2017, bodes well for the future. We have increased the number of classes in Year 10 and Year 8 to accommodate the additional enrolments.

Our community is seeing a much improved school. We are providing **quality education** in **great facilities** and we are looking good at the same time, both the uniform and the school grounds. Thank you to those who are speaking so positively about what we offer here in a safe and harmonious environment which also has an academic focus.

FAREWELL

With mixed feelings I will soon be leaving J J Cahill MHS to retire. After almost 11 years at the school and over a quarter of my career, I feel proud of all that has been accomplished by our students and staff. Our students are always welcoming, very friendly and good natured. This reflects equally on the expectations at home as well as those of the staff. Students who work hard, putting in the hours of revision and study go on to achieve academic success and others, who may not have put in the necessary effort, are all able to find a niche for themselves. I believe each of our former and present students is proud to be a J J student and will hold on to the values they have learned here. We have a respectful and supportive school community which embraces nurturing its young people and we should be thankful.

I have watched the fabric of the staff change over the years to an obviously younger group. They have brought vitality and the skills, particularly in technology, to engage this generation of students in their learning and deliver quality education in the classroom. Under the leadership and in cohesion with the more experienced staff, all work together in continuing the tradition of academic expectations, providing stimulating lessons thus setting a positive and productive culture of learning. Some have risen through the ranks, taking on leadership roles and moving to other schools. The same goes for our administrative staff. Whilst we mourn the loss of these talented people to our school, they do reflect the professional development and amazing opportunities each has had whilst here, making us proud of their considerable achievements.

Throughout the years I have enjoyed working with our students and their families and very much appreciate the input of the many P&C members who have contributed so selflessly to our events and fundraising ventures all with happy faces and great camaraderie. The wonderful support of our families for events such as Big Night Out ensures the positive culture continues. I will miss such nights.

I will likewise miss the everyday interactions with students and staff and the inspiration they have provided. Some days have been particularly difficult and, at times, make the role of principal an unenviable one but the joy and satisfaction of the everyday and the wonderful achievements and significant successes, certainly counters the stresses and incredible demands.

There is a high degree of confidence in leaving the school in safe hands... Mr Mifsud will be relieving Principal from Monday 27 June until the end of the year. Mr Gracie will be relieving as Deputy Principal and Mr Fienberg will take on the role of relieving Head Teacher for the English, LOTE and Drama faculty.

My best wishes to all and thank you to everyone for giving me such an amazing experience here.

Robyn Cowin,
Principal



DEPUTY-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Each year we ask students to tell us their opinion and overall school experience. Each year for the past four years the school has participated in a survey from The Learning Bar called Tell Them From Me. This year the survey had a Focus on Learning with emphasis on student engagement, belonging, advocacy and application to learning. A summary of key points students shared with us follows.

In the form of advocacy students say they value the support provided to them by teachers and staff. They believe this support helps them learn and be better learners. Our own school data supports this claim and shows that the messages we have consistently provided centred around responsibility and personal best are being understood and used.

92% of students judge themselves to have positive behaviour at school. We are really proud of the significant decrease in school suspensions, behaviour referrals, truancy and rates of student late arrival. While all these things have happened we have also seen increases in student attendance rates and distribution of positive reinforcements to students. 65% of students say they have a positive working relationship with their teachers and they value the feedback and direction afforded to them.

86% of students say they have attended each class and see the relevance of the concepts taught in class with real world connections. 70% of students say they have a sense of belonging to the school and an increasing number of students said they are involved in extra curricula activities, groups in music or drama, teams and committees.

53% of students say they have a positive attitude to learning with a consistent completion of homework tasks. Teachers report homework is issued consistently to students as opportunity to complete classwork, reinforce understanding with further practice or revision of past work. They have also said that more time is needed to be spent at home to better complete assessments to appropriate standards. 75% of students said they know their teachers hold high expectations of them with their learning and are encouraged to work to their ability for greater success.

This focus of this survey was a repeat of the survey organised in 2013 and allowed schools the opportunity to compare measures of key areas and reflect on growth and the impact specific strategies have had on school culture. We tripled our perceived rate of advocacy of students. We decreased the level of student negative behaviour by 70%, while we doubled the levels of student voluntary in groups across the school. Improved levels of time spent at home completing studies and school work was also notable.

We are extremely proud of the results we have achieved in the survey and respect the voice of our students to help us to continually build an even better, supportive and cohesive culture supporting their learning and development.

We would like to encourage all members of the school community, parents, caregivers, and members of the community, to participate in future surveys so a more holistic response can be collected and then interpreted to learn about overall perspective and then a determination to move forward together with a shared understanding.

If you would like further clarification of the results of this survey please call the school and make an appointment to gain insight into specific areas of the survey.

As this is the last school newsletter article before Mrs Cowin's retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on her outstanding career.

Mrs Cowin has been working in Public Education for 39 years, the last eleven years as Principal at JJ Cahill Memorial High School. She has done so much for the school and the local community of Mascot. Her legacy to teaching is her passion, kind and nurturing support, care and meaningful advice to students and families, quality mentoring of staff and strong educational leadership.

She has incorporated the local community through their use of school facilities and has been tireless in her endeavour to purchase educational resources which enhance quality teaching and learning. Her passion for gardening is evident in her relentless drive to beautify school grounds. She has drawn inspiration from local council landscaping to also develop manicured gardens around buildings and pathways.



In recent years we have seen the construction of the Outdoor Learning Centre, improved facilities of the boys and girls PE change rooms, installation of Interactive Whiteboards, increased quantity of musical instruments, refurbishment of kitchens, and aesthetic improvements to classrooms and buildings with painting and new carpet. Previous to me she oversaw the construction of the Gymnasium and returf of the school oval for the benefit and safety of our students and local community sporting teams. She embraced the school's history and connection with local community leading the celebration of its 50th Anniversary celebrations and generated a pride in the school with the recognition of student achievement and design and introduction of crested school uniform.

Mrs Cowin leaves JJCMHS in good stead to embrace the challenges of 21st century learning and we thank her for the vision for the school she has created and shared and the devoted commitment she has displayed in countless school plans and meetings. Mrs Cowin has been tireless in her drive to inspire great teaching, which is fundamental to students aspiring to and reaching their academic goals through personal excellence.

It is now time she reflects on her career as a kaleidoscope of colour, with fond memories and the knowledge that she has made a positive difference to so many lives, and looks forward to the blank canvas before her as she paints her way to artistic and creative freedom.

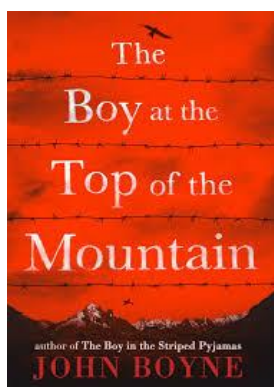
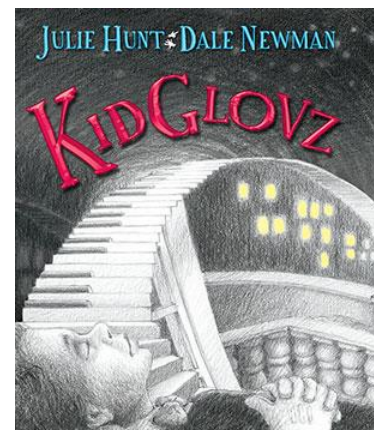
John Mifsud,
Deputy-Principal

AN UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

NEW TEXTS

KidGlovz

An extraordinary graphic fable about a boy who inherits a dangerous musical gift, from a multi-award-winning author. KidGlovz is a musical genius. His gift is so precious that he's kept under lock and key. But when a young thief helps him escape, Kid must embark on a perilous journey through which he will discover the terrifying nature of his talent. A spellbinding graphic fable about friendship and freedom (www.allenandunwin.com).



The Boy at the Top of the Mountain

When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Quickly, Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, and is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets and betrayal, from which he may never be able to escape (<http://www.booktopia.com.au/>).

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

A warm welcome to Oliver!

"Oliver" is the new library management software. This software went live at the end of Term 1 and is the new library interface which offers a digital rich, engaging experience for the entire school community. As a fully web based solution it can be accessed from any desktop or tablet device, allowing students to discover library and learning resources 24/7 in school, from home or on the go. Students can access Oliver from their DoE portal. The following icon can be found on their portal homepage.



Congratulations to JJ Cahill's Chess Team!



Students at J J Cahill competed in the Interschool Chess Challenge on the 9th May at South Sydney High School. They went tremendously well and were rewarded for their efforts as they were placed third for the competition.

Proud Students from Year 7, 9 and 10 taking part in the Interschool Chess Challenge.





Laptop hub

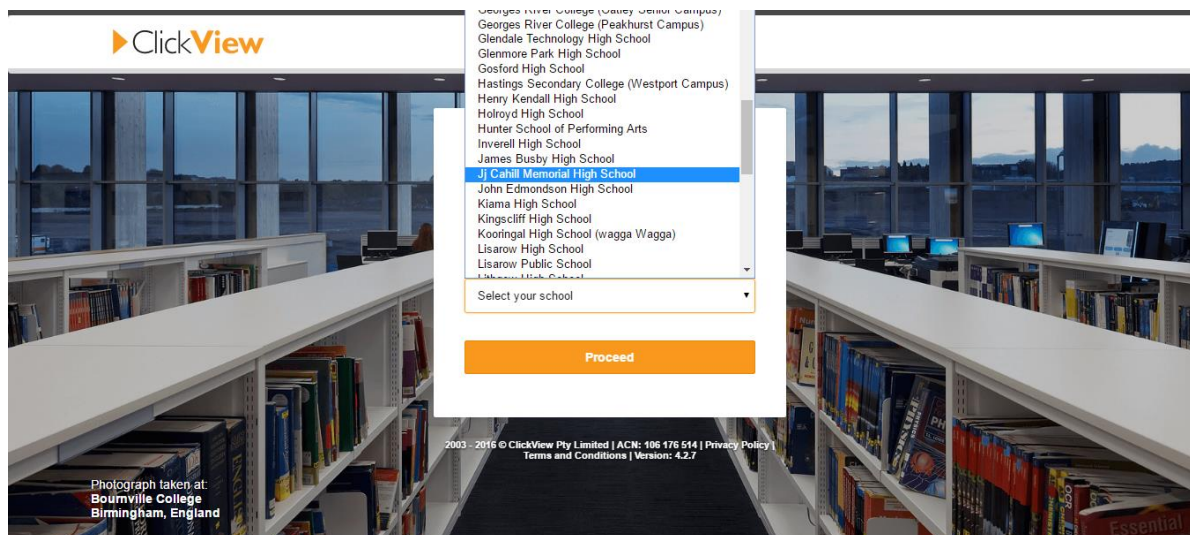
The library now features a collection of laptops that students and teachers can borrow for short term use. Whole classes have access to a trolley of laptops and under special circumstances, students are able to borrow a laptop for longer term use.

From the Librarian.

J J Cahill Memorial High School library continues to be a hub of activity at JJ Cahill Memorial High School. 67 NEW books are about to be placed on our shelves! These books offer students a huge range of fiction and non-fiction reading.

As the librarian I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding behaviour of students in the library during recess and lunch. Students have been using the library computers frequently for homework, assessment tasks and research. Also, the chess tables have been packed with students challenging each other every day.

In addition, students now have a "Single Sign-on" option when signing into Clickview. For newcomers, ClickView is an advanced video solution for JJ Cahill's teachers which provides thousands of quality educational videos designed for the curriculum, all accessible through a BYOD-friendly video platform. Students can log into the Clickview website and access videos that their teachers have placed in subject relevant folders from any device. Students can now sign into the Clickview website by simply typing in their DET email address and selecting JJ Cahill Memorial High School as shown below.



Remember: if in doubt, visit the library!

Tara Mylan,
Teacher Librarian

BIG BAND 2016

Thanks to a generous donation from the South Sydney Graphic Arts Club in 2013, the school purchased instruments for a Big Band. A Big Band consists of a rhythm section (Piano, Guitar, Bass and Drums) and horns section (trumpets, trombones and saxophones). It also provides opportunities for gifted vocalists to collaborate with the band. Big Bands play a wide variety of music from jazz and popular genres. This year we will also be initiating a senior jazz ensemble, which is available to students who have participated in the Big Band for a minimum of two years.

To be part of the band, students who hire instruments are required to pay a yearly fee of \$50, which covers servicing and tuition. These lessons will be critical for improving the overall quality of the band. In addition, all big band students may be required to pay an additional fee to attend/participate in band excursions/incursions at various points within the year.

Whole band rehearsals will take place on Tuesday afternoons from 3:10 - 4:30pm and be conducted by Mr Fienberg and Mr Chapman. Three sectional tutor groups will be formed in addition to the band: Saxes, Brass and Rhythm. These tutor sessions will be held on a separate morning before school and be co-ordinated by Mr Fienberg, Mr Chapman and Ms Hallahan.

Currently we have the following Big Band vacancies for trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone and tenor saxophone. If your child is interested in joining, an information session for students and parents will be held on Tuesday 29th of March from 3:10 - 4:00pm. Here they will have the chance to try the instruments to see whether they better suited to woodwinds or brass. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Thomas Fienberg,
Music Teacher
thomas.fienberg1@det.nsw.edu.au

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to Marnie Hardy and Cynthia Ngabire of Year 11! Both students were recently awarded Youth Scholarship Awards to assist them in achieving their best throughout their senior studies.

Only 15 scholarships were awarded with in the South Eastern Sydney District which extends from the inner city suburbs, through the eastern suburbs and Botany Bay area and includes all of the Sutherland Shire. It is a testament to their efforts and determination to achieve their best that both Marnie and Cynthia were selected among these 15 students. We look forward to seeing what these scholarships enable them to do and wish them every success as they undertake their senior studies.

Meg Hallahan,
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

ATSI REPORT

Our Year 10, 11 and 12 students are continuing to make positive connections with Souths Cares in their 'School to Work' transition program. On Saturday 12th March, Souths Cares held their 'Nanga Nai Marri' awards night. Nanga Nai Marri means 'dream big' and that's exactly what Souths Cares encourage our students to do.

In Term 2, all of our students will be working on collaborative art works to have displayed at our annual NAIDOC Day. This day will be held on Thursday 30th June and all community members are welcome to attend. A letter will be sent home shortly with specific details about the NAIDOC assembly and afternoon.
Remember students; reach for the 'birrung' (stars)!

Mr McNaught,
Aboriginal Programs Co-ordinator

*Monica Campbell
with South Cares'
Beau Champion*



CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL 2016



ADMINISTERING PRESCRIBED MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

When a medical practitioner has prescribed medication that must be administered during the school day, parents are responsible for:

- bringing this need to the attention of the school
- ensuring that the information is updated if it changes
- supplying the medication and any 'consumables' necessary for its administration in a timely way
- collaborating with the school in working out arrangements for the supply and administration of the prescribed medication.

It is the role of parents to:

- cooperate with the school on student health matters
- support their child's health
- inform the school of the health needs of the child when they enrol or when health conditions develop or change
- liaise with the child's medical practitioner about the implications of the child's health condition for their schooling
- where medication is prescribed, ask the medical practitioner whether the medication is available in a form which minimises or eliminates the need to provide the medication during the school day
- convey all relevant advice and information from the medical practitioner to the school
- complete a written request form (supplied by the school) for the school to administer prescribed medication or for other support
- provide prescribed medication and 'consumables' for administration by the school in a timely way and as agreed with the principal
- collaborate with the school in planning to support the child's health needs at school including updating information and reviewing plans.

Note: Forms completed by parents will be stored securely.

It may be necessary for some information to be shared with staff in order for the school to provide support for the student.

YEAR 7 PDHPE COMPLETE THE #RUNNINGMANCHALLENGE

A number of Year 7 students recently participated in the JJ Cahill Memorial High School Running Man Challenge. The Running Man Challenge is current social media activity where participants complete the 'running man' dance move to music.

In Physical Education classes this term, Year 7 students are studying dance and the running man activity fits perfectly with the PDHPE syllabus outcomes and is a fun and engaging way to highlight dance as a form of physical activity. The clip of the students completing the #runningmanchallenge can be seen on the JJ Cahill Memorial High School social media accounts. The photo below shows them practising in the school amphitheater.



ANZAC DAY

Students discussed why and how Anzac Day is commemorated and the contribution that people serving in the forces have made and are making. During discussions about Australia's war history and its significance in our lives today, Mrs Stathis showed students photos of her father, his medals and his World War 2 service record outlining his departure from Sydney and tour of duty including "The Siege of Tobruk " in 1941.

(Nicholas Hatzistavrides is featured wearing original medals belonging to Ms Brook's father who served during the Vietnam war.)



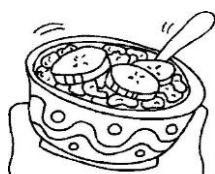
UPCOMING EVENTS AT MASCOT COUNCIL'S MUSEUM



The Council's museum at Mascot are currently running events/programs that may be of interest:

- **NEW EXHIBITION:** Our A-Z brings alive 26 historical stories about people, places and things in the City of Botany Bay.
- **VOLUNTEER CALL OUT:** Details of our 'Share your memories' project are attached. Please note this project can be tweaked for student/class participation even if they don't have any photos or objects to share.

JJ CAHILL BREAKFAST CLUB



Are you a student that comes to school hungry?
Do you suffer from breakfast envy?
Come to school with a rumbling tummy?



Well, JJ's Breakfast Club is here to provide FREE breakfast for students like you! It operates every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. So drop in to the Food Tech room and lose those breakfast blues. Proudly sponsored by Kellogg's and Bakers' Delight Mascot

Come on in and give it a try.

WARNING FOR PARENTS

There is a concern for students that Child Sex Offenders are posing as Photographers on sites such as Facebook & Instagram and asking to photograph young girls and boys. Many of these offenders claim to be "casting agents" which entices the young kids into thinking they are going to be the next big model. As we all know many students are looking for that attention and acknowledgement and could easily fall into this trap. Can you please speak with your children and make them aware of this.

Kindest Regards
Rachael Martin
Senior Constable
School Liaison Police
Youth Command, Inner Metro Zone
Mascot

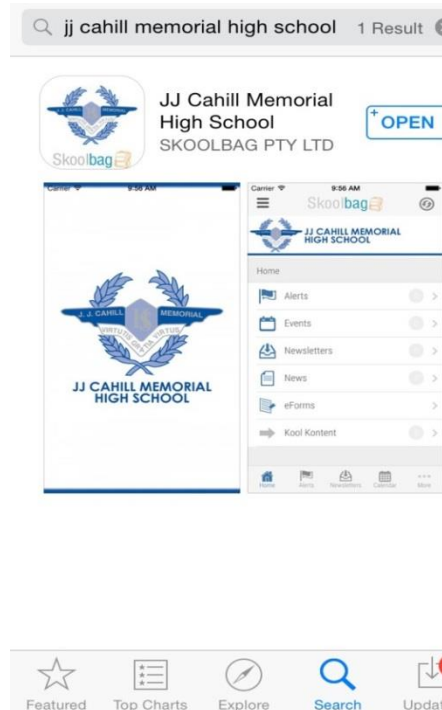
JJ CAHILL NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN APP!

JJ Cahill Memorial High School now has a school app. The app is compatible with Android, Apple and Windows smartphones.

This is the ultimate school-to-student and/or parent/carer communication tool. This School Mobile App provides us with an easy way to tell you everything you need to know about school news, newsletters, events, cancellations, school notices, school information and much more (Skoolbag.com.au).

The JJ Cahill Memorial High School App is very flexible and easy to use. Use the following instructions to install the app on your device.

To help you along your way with installation, open iTunes, Google Play or Windows Store and search for JJ Cahill Memorial High School.



SEARCH OUR
SCHOOL NAME IN:

Available on the iPhone
App Store

Available on Android
Google play

Do you want
to make a
difference in
the life of a
child?



Local foster carers needed

Family and Community Services are seeking people in the local area to provide short term and crisis foster care for children and young people 0-18 years that are unable to live with their own families.

Individuals, couples and families from varied backgrounds and cultural groups are required. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

All carers receive training, ongoing support and financial assistance.

If you are interested in making a difference and helping children reach their full potential, please call 02 9765 5000 or email fosteringwithfacs@facs.nsw.gov.au



Family & Community Services



FOSTERING WITH FACS