

'WINGS'

J J Cahill Memorial High School
school newsletter

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HONOUR

EXCELLENCE

RESPONSIBILITY

OPPORTUNITY

'Wings' Issue 5 Term 3

August 2017

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COMING EVENTS

28-31 August – Literacy and Numeracy Week
 17 August – Year 10 Macbeth Excursion
 21-25 August - NAPLAN Online Readiness Tests
 28-1 September – Literacy and Numeracy Week
 29 August – Years 7-12 Parent Teacher Night

FROM THE
PRINCIPAL'S
DESK

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AND PRELIMINARY COURSES

As Principal of JJ Cahill Memorial High School, it is my strongest desire for ALL students to have every opportunity to succeed. I am committed to building a strong learning culture within the school where students challenge themselves to set aspirational goals and back that up with hard work and diligence.

Year 12 have finished their trial and are quickly approaching their Higher School Certificate examination. It is a time when students can feel a lot of stress; it is also a time when students need to attend every day and remain focused upon learning. The HSC is a world-recognised credential and provides a pathway to university and further study. Teachers at JJ Cahill Memorial High School are committed to providing every support needed for students to achieve. I encourage students to embrace every opportunity to learn.

It is important to note that Year 11 is coming to the end of the Preliminary course and will start their Higher School Certificate course in Term 4. It is a challenging and important time in their learning at school, one that needs focus and determination.

To complete the Preliminary, (Year 11) and HSC course, (Year 12) students need to meet the following criteria.

A student will be considered to have satisfactorily completed a course if, in the principal's view, there is sufficient evidence that the student has:

- 1. Followed the course developed or endorsed by the Board; and*
- 2. Applied themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the course by the school; and*
- 3. Achieved some or all of the course outcomes.*

This information is from the **NSW Education Standards Authority**, (NESA). NESA has the responsibility of monitoring teaching, learning and assessment public, Catholic and independent schools across NSW. They establish the rules and processes that I have to follow as a principal.

If parents wish to discuss their child's progress, please contact the school on 9669 5118.

JJ CAHILL MHS VALUES FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

Principal commitment to meet with all parents

Since taking up the principal position at JJ Cahill MHS, I have made a commitment to meet with ALL parents to gain feedback about the school. It is taking longer than I thought and while I will continue to meet with parents over the course of the year, I wanted to find a way to get feedback to find out what parents think we are doing well and what we need to improve.

Focus groups will run involving parents to support planning school direction

The school is currently planning its strategic direction for 2018 to 2020 and as principal; I want to make sure that I have consulted with the whole school community. To achieve this the school we will be running focus groups over Term 3 and into Term 4 this year. You will receive an email invite requesting your participation. The survey is confidential. I encourage you to take up this opportunity.

Survey tools to inform the school about areas to improve

The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey will be sent out to all parents in the next few weeks. It will allow parents to rate the school on areas such as,

- Parents feel welcome and are informed
- Parents engage with the school by attending meetings, parent teacher nights, are involved in the schools P&C...
- Parents support learning at home by encouraging student to complete homework and establishing expectations and routines.
- Perception of whether the school supports and promotes positive behaviour
- Whether the school is a safe school with behaviours being dealt with in a timely manner, that the school works to prevent bullying, whether students feel safe going to and from school
- Is the school an inclusive school

The 360-degree tool is a survey that focuses on the school as a business. It asks for feedback about,

- The schools effectiveness at communicating
- The schools commitment to customer service
- The school commitment to work with its community
- The school vision and direction

As Principal, I value feedback from the school community and encourage ALL parents to participate in providing feedback so that J J Cahill MHS can continue to improve.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES REGARDING ATTENDANCE

It is clear that regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options.

It is important that parents work in partnership with the school to support attendance. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children who are enrolled at school attend every day that the school is open for instruction.

The core rules that ALL schools have in regard to attendance is the **students must attend every school day unless they are legally excused** and that **students also need to arrive at school on time and be prepared to learn**. The school is currently reviewing its strategies to promote and support regular student attendance. One outcome of this review is that the **school is now sending out SMS messages every day** to inform you about your child's attendance at school.

It is important that parents provide an explanation when a child is absent. This explanation should be provided within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Parents can inform the school via **email, written note, telephone call or text message**. Principals can request a medical certificate if they have concerns with the explanation provided or where there is a history of poor attendance. The medical certificate would need to state that the child is "unfit for school".

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) UPDATE

I have written about and spoken about PBL a number of times this year. For community members that do not understand what PBL is yet I will briefly explain. PBL is a framework that engages the school community in collaboratively developing school values. The values are clearly defined by students and staff and the behaviours that we would see that align to the values are described. PBL ensures that expectations are clearly defined, explicitly taught and is managed in a positive and consistent manner.

I know that we all desire for schools to be a safe respectful place where students can focus upon learning. The PBL framework has been around for a long time and is a proven model that results in a school where there are positive respectful relationships that provide conditions that support and promote learning.

As a school we have recently renegotiated the values and and worked with all students to describe what these values look like in the classroom.

The school's values are:

Honour - Honour is the way we show respect and care for others to share positive educational experiences. Do what is right, because it is right.

Key words that help us reflect upon honour are, **Relationships, Respect, Making Good Choices**

Excellence - Excellence is the journey to find your personal best and setting high expectations for achievement. We show excellence when we are persistent and offer our best effort at all times.

Key words that help us reflect upon excellence are **Persistence, Resilience, and Habits of Mind, (getting along, organisation, persistence and confidence)**. I will write more about this in later newsletters.

Responsibility - Responsibility represents our ability to act in a way that is safe, consistent and accountable. We are being responsible when our behaviour ensures we are dependable and empathetic in our interactions with others.

Key words that help us reflect upon responsibility are **Safe, Accountability, and Responsible Conduct**

Opportunity - Opportunity is actively seeking and creating experiences to achieve our goals. When we accept opportunities to develop our learning and contribute to shared learning experiences, we grow and succeed.

Key words that help us reflect upon opportunity are **Setting Goals, Making the most of opportunities provided and the Recognition of Opportunity**

I will continue to write about PBL because it is a very important school strategy for improving student learning.

Thank you.
Ralph David
Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

NEW TEXTS



The Trapeze Act By Libby Angel

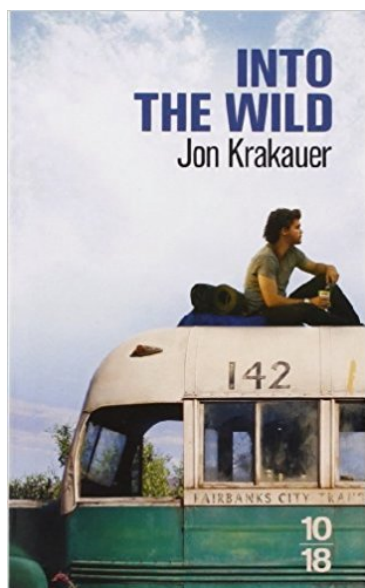
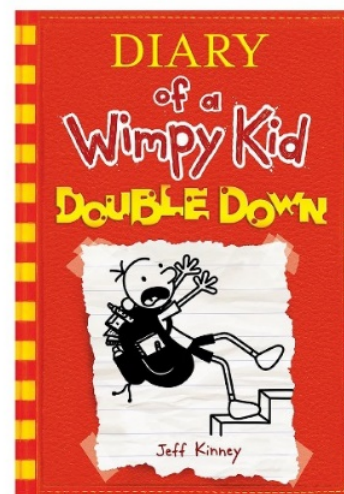
Loretta's mother was a trapeze artist in Europe, the star of the famed Rodzirkus circus, before she walked out on her drunken husband and his debts while on tour in Australia. But a life in 1960s suburban Adelaide was always going to be difficult, even if she does land herself the most handsome young barrister of the town, and Leda's behaviour raises more than a few eyebrows.

The Trapeze Act weaves stories of the circus and the doomed ivory expedition through a novel that is at once a heartbreaking tale of the search for acceptance and a celebration of the lustre and magic of life.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Double Down by Jeff Kinney

The pressure's really piling up on Greg Heffley. The only thing he's good at is playing video games, but his parents want him to broaden his horizons by doing something—anything!—else.

When Greg finds an old video camera in his basement, he thinks he may have discovered just the thing to prove he's got big-time talent. With the help of his best friend, Rowley, Greg hatches a plan to make a scary movie . . . and to become rich and famous in the process. But is doubling down on movie-making a smart plan? Or is it just a recipe for doubling Greg's troubles?



Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, a party of moose hunters found his decomposed body. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?

Homework Club

Homework club is still running! Join us in the library on Monday afternoons from 3:05pm to 5pm for help with assessment tasks, homework, study skills and all your learning needs. We have Laptops, chrome books, an Ipad and a printer available. Teachers from all subject areas will be there to support all students from Years 7-12 with their learning needs.

Chess Club

The chess club is now meeting on Monday afternoons at the same time as homework club from 3:05pm to 5:00pm. All students from all grades are welcome to play chess on this afternoon even if they do not want to participate in official competitions.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Gifted and Talented Enrichment Class

The gifted and talented enrichment class is now participating in a special Tournament of the JJ Minds competition. Student groups will compete against one another in a spontaneous and long term challenge. Students will face a panel of judges at the end of term to compete against one another in these two special social science challenges.

New students

Having trouble logging into your student email or computers at JJ Cahill? If this is you, please see Ms Mylan in the library. I am the person who can check your username, email and reset your password. Remember: if in doubt, visit the library!

Tara Mylan
Teacher Librarian

ALL THE LATEST FROM PDHPE

Our faculty has hit the ground running this term with a number of our students about to head off on work placement and white card training as well as our classes moving into some exciting course work. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Ng and Mr Zhukov to the faculty and the JJ community.

Sensitive Issues in PDHPE

Parents and carers of students in years 7 - 10 would have received at the start of the term an information note highlighting the sensitive issues being covered in PDHPE classes this semester. We encourage parents and carers to read the information carefully and discuss the sensitive issues with their child if they are causing concern. If you would like some further information or support, please get in touch with your child's PDHPE teacher.

Women in Sport

The sporting community is currently celebrating *Women in Sport*. At JJ this term we are encouraging our female PDHPE students to be actively engaged in physical education and physical activity opportunities. The top 2 female students in each PDHPE class this term will be given the opportunity to see the Australian women's cricket team play in the Ashes this November. To be eligible females students must:

- Be prepared for all practical and theory lessons during Term 3
- Be actively engaged all lessons. For example this can be shown through participating in class discussions and group/team work
- Demonstrating a willingness to be a leader within the class
- Completing all assessment tasks to the best of their ability
- Demonstrates personal growth as a PDHPE student.

All the best ladies - we look forward to seeing our females being actively engaged in sport!

Reminder regarding correct footwear

All students in Technology and Applied Science subjects **must wear** fully enclosed leather shoes. This is a Department of Education requirement as well as in line with Workplace Health and Safety legislation. Students studying food technology, hospitality, construction, timber or other elective subjects which use the kitchens or workshops need to be wearing the required footwear in their classes.

If you require support or would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with your child's TAS teacher.

Stay active - Stay healthy

Ms Brenda Doran
Rel. HT TAS/PDHPE
On behalf of the Faculty

SPORT REPORT!

The following students are the Athletics Carnival Age Champions and will be recognised during a formal assembly in the near future;

2017 Athletics Age Champions:

| Age | Name (Females) | Name (Males) |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------|
| 12 | Mahana Delamere-Mill | Ulysis Sarimsaklio |
| 13 | Yilara Widders | David Salmon |
| 14 | Charina Jackson | Von Calabazon |
| 15 | Jada Karam | Peter Syed |
| 16 | Kaea Murphy | Eslam Bakr |
| 17+ | Tasilina Folau | Aydin Ozturk |

Winning House: YELLOW

Grade Sport:

We are nearing the end of the Year 7/8 Grade sport competition and JJ Cahill has 2 girls and 1 boys' touch football team (pictured, right), and 1 girls' and 1 boys' soccer team.

These games are played at Moore Park each Wednesday against other schools within the Eastern Suburbs Zone.





The girls' touch football team playing against Matraville Sports HS

Zone Athletics Carnival:

Congratulations to the following students for outstanding results at the Zone Athletics Carnival and who are eligible for competing at the next level;

Adam Awad – 1st 17yrs Shot Put

George Patakos – 1st 17yrs Javelin

Von Calabazaron – 1st 14yrs Javelin

David Salmon – 2nd 13yrs Javelin

Memhet Saracoglu – 2nd 13yrs Shot Put and Discus

Cayleb Trinh – 2nd 12yrs Discus

Further information <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/>

CAREERS

Year 10 subject selection is fast approaching and students have been given support in the form of information provided in the Year 10 Google Classroom, which they can access any time. The Department of Education has provided some helpful advice to students and parents which can be found at;

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/year-10-subject-selection>

Students may wish to study a **TAFE** course as part of their HSC pattern of study and students have been provided with a list of TAFE courses to choose from if they wish. The deadline for notification to Mr Potter, the careers Advisor, is 11th August. Courses can be found here <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/tvet>

A MESSAGE FOR YEAR 12

The HSC Trials are over and most students have received their results. While some students are generally pleased with the outcome, there are also quite a few who are disappointed and feel they could have done better. This is a normal occurrence after HSC Trial exams for many students and I would like to encourage Year 12 not to feel too disheartened and certainly not to give up trying!

Mr David spoke at length to Year 12 about the crucial importance of all students applying themselves regarding committing to their attendance and to their studies from this stage forwards. It is not too late to make a dramatic improvement on the marks you received in the Trials and other assessments throughout the year. This is a goal every student needs to aim for.

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

A great way to study, particularly at this stage of the year, is to download and print past examination papers. These are very easy to access online. For 'written' subjects such as English and Ancient History, a great way to revise is to get a list of past questions and write essay plans accompanied by a practice introduction. Remember to show your teachers your answers so they can give you that all-important feedback. Don't forget about Homework Club in the Library each Monday afternoon.

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

Nathan Potter
Year 12 Adviser

NAPLAN READINESS TEST

NAPLAN is going online. In preparation for this, all students in NSW schools who sat NAPLAN this year will be undertaking a NAPLAN Online Readiness Test this term.

The NAPLAN Online Readiness Test is designed to test the capabilities of technical infrastructure and the testing program. Two tests will be completed – a writing test and an omnibus test which is a combination of reading, language conventions and numeracy questions. No test results are collected or stored by NAPLAN during this online test and, as a result, no test results are reported to the student, school or Department of Education.

At our school, students will complete the test during Week 6. Students who were exempt from the NAPLAN test in April will be exempt from participating in the Online Readiness Test.

For further information please refer to the NESA website <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au> or contact the school.

Ms Tyson
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

We invite you to join the J J Cahill Memorial High School Community

To ensure the success of our students, we need a professional and active school community.

We are building a school that reaches out to our community members and we are looking for your involvement and commitment to help us make JJ great.

One way you and/or your business can participate in our school community is to offer a bursary.

This is a commitment to funding a student to assist them on their learning journey. This can be acknowledged and celebrated as an award on presentation days or graduation days each year.

Each bursary will be named in your honour as a valuable contributor to the success of students. We ask for your consideration to join us and share in the success at J J Cahill Memorial High School.