

From the Principal

Social Media – Helping our kids navigate the online world



This is part one of what I see as one of the significant challenges we face as parents and educators.

How do we as a school community help our children and students navigate an online world in a way that is safe and socially responsible?

I remember growing up in the television age when my parents' greatest challenge was getting me away from television and outside to play on a Saturday and Sunday. Similarly, my parents were always telling the children to keep the phone calls short in case someone else wanted to call. My parents were very happy when I discovered sport in my early teens and the television was no longer a focus.

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What's on?

10 June – Queen's Birthday Holiday

11 June – Zone Athletics Carnival

27 June – Big Night Out Matinee

28 June – Big Night Out

5 July – Last day of Term 2

Safe and Respectful



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

These were the days where an average family had one television and one telephone. Parents could easily monitor and control access to the media in the home. When my children were growing up, at least in the early years, we had dial up modems and one computer in a central area in the home. I remember telling my children to keep their time on the internet short because someone might want to call. Again, this was a simpler time and controlling access to media was a lot simpler than today.

Today children have smart phones, televisions and computers in their rooms and never seem to be disconnected. Their lives are lived online. Parents struggle to understand how they can create reasonable boundaries and, in many cases, feel that they have little control over how and when their children access the online world.

I have spoken to many parents who feel that they are disadvantaging their children or being bad parents if they apply limits around their children's access to the 'online world'. This quite often results in parents backing off and opting for minimal intervention, relying upon trust that their children learn how to navigate this technology in a safe and socially responsible manner. We have to ask whether this is working. While research is still limited in this area, current thinking suggests that while social media does not in of itself create the risk, it does facilitate it and amplify it.



Schools have struggled with students' current levels of connection and reliance on online technology and its impact upon learning and student wellbeing. JJ Cahill Memorial High School is no exception to this societal challenge. As a school we are intently focused upon student learning and social development. We are in the business of developing productive members of society who contribute to their communities in positive ways and achieve their potential.

As a school we have grappled with the challenge of how to navigate smart phone technology at school and in the classroom. Our response has been to establish clear, well-reasoned expectations. These expectations have been taught to students and are followed by our teachers.



This approach comes out of the belief that we are educators and banning something in a society often produces outcomes that are negative. We are currently trying to teach students that the classroom is a place where learning, striving, working hard, actively participating and challenging oneself need to be jealously guarded and that anything that interferes with learning has no place in this space.

This approach is not without challenge. We need your support when students fail to understand the importance of learning and challenge the school's expectations. As a school community it is essential parents/carers and school staff work together to support one another to teach children how to

make informed, socially responsible decisions and to have safe, healthy online behaviours.

If you are interested in being involved in a forum to discuss this further, please contact the school on 9669 5118. I will organise a forum based upon community interest. Thank you.

Ralph David,
Principal JJ Cahill Memorial High School

SOME WORDS FROM MR MIFSUD



Student Reports

All students of Years 7-10 will receive their academic reports for Semester 1 on Friday 5 July.

Reports contain teachers' valuable feedback and documented evidence of academic progress. It is another avenue of communication and reporting to parents.

Many interactions take place on a daily basis in classrooms, which encourage students to accept challenges and try new methods and skills, as well as work closely with peers.

Congratulations to all the students who have been recognised for their efforts and have started to see the rewards of their educational development. I certainly encourage you to continue your application and devotion to your studies and invite your friends to enjoy the journey of learning with you.

Parents, please ask your child for their report and read it with them. Keep it in a place where you can constantly refer to it. Ask them how they feel about the grades and the teacher's comment and together write some learning goals for the remainder of the school year. This will help your child prepare for reflection interviews scheduled next term with their Year Advisor.

The importance of consistent school attendance.

Consistent school attendance has many benefits for students. Attending school every day allows students to build on foundations of learning and consolidate skills and understanding from previous lessons. It also allows students to form friendships and have knowledge of school events and what is happening at school. The sense of school belonging is an important factor which helps students to feel valued as a person and a learner and to attend school. Please encourage your children to attend school every day and to participate in school groups and activities.

Being absent for **one** day per week for a year is equal to **40** school days. This adds up to **240** school hours and nearly a whole school term. If a student is absent **two** days per week for a year that is equal to 80 school days which is the equivalent of 480 school hours and nearly two school terms. **This is also the equivalent of a whole year's coursework.**

Being absent from school on any day has a direct impact on student learning and can cause gaps in skill development. I ask all parents to give consideration before they allow their child to stay at home due to illness. Do not allow them to entertain themselves with watching movies or playing video games. They need to concentrate on recovery so that they can return to school as soon as possible.

The most effective and successful place for learning is school and participating in class – every lesson, every day.

John Mifsud,
Deputy Principal

NEWS FROM THE SUPPORT UNIT

Work Experience at DSA

Disability Services Australia (DSA) is a social enterprise supporting 2,500 people with a disability, and employing more than 1,500 people in key regions of New South Wales. The senior classes from the Support Unit are visiting DSA on the regular basis for Work Experience.

SU4 and SU5 students have made a great start working at DSA in Term 2. All students worked hard, stayed on task, and followed the instructions and the job sequence really well. Well done to all students for presenting an outstanding work ethic!

Tunde Frisnyak
Special Education Teacher



SU1 created these fabulous art works with the help of their teacher, Ms Jessop. The beautiful birds will protect the art room and the pigs are in different textures and tones to celebrate the Year of the Pig!



CREATING PURPOSE THROUGH CONNECTION

The Creating Purpose Through Connection - Community Program is a 10 week interactive group program, targeted to young men aged 14+ years and older men with disabilities (WindGap) Life After Work. In week four of the program the group started off slow maybe due to having to shake off the dust from the recent storms that have been hitting Sydney.

Miriam, the artistic project manager showed the group how to apply acrylic paint to the letters and strategies to avoid making mistakes and before we knew the boys had applied a couple of coats in their chosen colours. It was great to see how well the boys of JJ Cahill and the Older adults from WindGap exchanging conversation and having fun. Next week the group will be developing templates for the bigger design.



Earn & Learn

We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Wednesday 1st May and Tuesday 25th June 2019. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school. Simply pop them into the box at the office or drop it into the Collection Box at your local Woolies. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we would like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more. We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please see Ms Grammat in the Support Unit.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HSIE?

Excursion to the Downing Centre

On the 8 April, 2019, the Year 9 and 10 Commerce class visited the Downing Centre where they were provided with an opportunity to view a range of different cases in the local and district courts.

There were many cases ranging from robbery, drug use, corruption and theft. This was a wonderful day and a truly authentic learning experience for all Commerce students.

Ms Lawson and Ms De Mello



Excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum



On the 28 May, 2019 Year 10 History visited the Sydney Jewish Museum. The students had the honour of learning about the experiences and impact of the Holocaust upon a survivor. This was a powerful learning experience for all year 10 students.

Thank you to Mr Bosco and Mr Goudis for organising this excursion.

ANZAC Day Assembly

On the 3rd of May we held a powerful and moving ANZAC Day assembly that was led by the SRC. We welcomed a very special guest speaker, Uncle Harry Allie, a descendant of the Gudjala Tribal group and a serving member of the Australian Royal Air Force. Harry Allie reminded us all of the importance of mateship, courage and strength against all odds.

Sian De Mello.
HT HSIE



COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS

Fabulous creative writing workshop with Miss Ali's Year 6 class!

On Monday, the 27th of May, Ms Murphy and I, along with the help of selected Year 8 students, facilitated a creative writing workshop with Miss Ali's Year 6 class at Gardeners Road Public School as part of our Community of Schools program.

I would like to commend Daphne Santoso, Vasiliki Magkli, Vlad Komov, Gianne Angeles, Uyanga Khatanbataar and Luke McCarthy for their efforts in assisting and inspiring the primary school students with their work. These students have demonstrated strong leadership skills and were positive role models and representatives of our school during this workshop.

Tamara Tickle,
Year 8 Adviser

And a few words from Daphne and Vasiliki...

On the 27th May, 2019, six Year 8 students were asked to help the Year 6 students at Gardeners Road Public School with a creative writing and descriptive words workshop. First we read an extract from "Boy" by Roald Dahl and then we were put into the daily 5 groups of the students to help them throughout the program.

The Year 6 students wrote their own stories about characters hiding behind an annex. The students seemed very interested in the topic and created amazing stories. This program helped them to further learn about the STEAL paragraph formation as well as word selection and creativity.



JJ CAHILL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

BIG X NIGHT OUT

Friday June 28

6:30pm

**School Hall
85 Sutherland St Mascot**

Book Tickets Online!

<https://www.trybooking.com/BCZBV>



Tickets

\$25 Family

\$10 Adult

\$5 Child/Pensioner



#bignightoutxi

Music, Dance, Drama, Food Stalls