



Principals Message

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End of Term 1 2021

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Principal - Mark Marciniak

Term 1 2021 has definitely been an extremely busy and at times challenging term for our students, staff and parents and we are looking forward to the opportunity to have a break.

In week 1 school photos of all the students were taken and on Thursday 1st of April, the last day of school photos were issued to the students who attended. For any students who were not present at school on the last day of term their photos will be provided to them on the first day they resume Term 2 (Tuesday 20th April).

Year 9 camp

JCBTHS Year 9 camp has become a customary personal development program for students to develop positive relationships with their peers, teachers and to strengthen their physical and mental resilience as they progress from Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) to meet the expectations and challenges of Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10).

This year's camp was held at the Youth Works Port Hacking Conference Center in the Royal National Park. Under the guidance of Mr Yelavich (Wellbeing coordinator) Mr Bulfon (Year 9 Advisor) Mr Sawford (Camp Coordinator) and Mr Dangas (Youth Outreach Worker) students were provided a series of challenging activities to test their personal resolve. The first challenge upon arriving was a ten kilometre trek through the dense habitat of the Royal National Park to Wedding Cake Rock. Although the three day camp consisted of many physical challenges, ranging from bush walking, kayaking and indoor rock climbing there was still plenty of time for students to debrief with Mr Dangas and relax in the pool and on the waterslide. Although many of the students arrived back at school on Friday afternoon quite exhausted and physically sore, the feedback from the students was that they thoroughly enjoyed and valued the time they spent at camp.

JCBTHS Open Evening

This year we had over one hundred and eighty people visit our school for our Year 6 to 7 Open Evening that was held on the 4th of March. Despite some COVID 19 restrictions being in place many parents and their sons from our local area and beyond wanted to find out more about our great school. Those in attendance were welcomed with a BBQ hosted by our committed students. Parents and their sons had the opportunity to speak with our dedicated teachers, observe our exciting STEM lessons, participate in a tour of our fantastic facilities and enquire about how JCBTHS can meet the aspirational learning needs of their sons. It was a great turnout and we are looking forward to welcoming and supporting our new cohort of Year 7 students in 2022.

Swimming carnival

Our annual Swimming Carnival was held on the 11th of March at Sans Souci Leisure Centre. This was a great opportunity for students to participate in the swimming events and enjoy themselves in the pool. Although identified students had already competed at the zone swimming carnival earlier in the term it was a great opportunity for other students to practice their swimming skills. We had a fantastic participation and attendance rate with over seventy five percent of students attending. A special thanks to Mr Pikis for organising the carnival.

Year 7 camp

Despite the ominous weather forecast our adventurous Year 7 students donned on their wet weather gear and ventured off to the Year 7 camp at Tea Gardens on the North Coast. Although it continually rained for the duration of the camp our students made the most of the experience and engaged in all the activities. The mud obstacle course looked more like a brown swimming pool, however this didn't dampen their enthusiasm. A special thanks has to go out to our committed teachers; Ms Cvetkovska (Year 7 Advisor), Mr Sawford (Camp Coordinator), Ms Axiotis, Mr Cato and Ms Mustapha as well as our School Chaplain Mr Hedges.

Year 7 meet the teacher

Unfortunately due to the ongoing wet weather we had to postpone our Year 7 Meet the Teacher afternoon. As mentioned in our previous communication to Year 7 parents our new date is scheduled for Tuesday 27th April from 4:30 to 6pm.

School athletics carnival

We were very fortunate to have great weather for our annual School Athletics Carnival that was held on 26th of March at Hensley Athletic Field. There was an impressive attendance rate and all the students had an opportunity to participate in all the events in their age groups. There were a cast of great athletes in many events and particular acknowledgment is necessary for our track athletes from Years 7 to 12. There was some quick times run in the 100 and 200 metre events that went close to breaking previous records. We look forward to continue to develop the talents of these students in the lead up to the zone carnival late next term.

Easter morning tea

To finish the term in a positive way Mr Hedges our School Chaplain with the support of Mr Bulfon and the SRC, our staff and students were treated to an Easter morning tea in the sun soaked quadrangle and recess on Thursday. Hot cross buns were on the menu and all students and staff had a chance to win one the three Easter eggs baskets up for grabs. Our Year 7 students needed to use their collaborative and decoding skills to solve the riddles to access their Easter eggs through the mind challenge Easter egg hunt. And to conclude the day teachers and students battled it out in a Teachers Vs students T ballgame.

Sustainable Schools Grant

Congratulations to Mr Gerges our Science and STEM teacher. Mr Gerges was successful in his Sustainable Schools Grant application, netting the school \$15,000. The money will be used to build a sustainable vegetable garden on the school grounds. The new garden will provide students in all years the opportunity to learn about sustainability, growing and looking after plants, the benefits of gardens in our community and how technology can be used to enhance and monitor gardens. We look forward to assisting and watching this exciting new project develop over the next term.

2021 to 2024 Strategic Improvement Plan

During the last ten weeks our executive teachers (Principal, Deputy Principal and Head Teachers) have been continuously working on developing our 2021 to 2024 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). In the last week of Term 1 our plan was approved by the Director of Educational Leadership. The three strategic directions of the SIP, Student Growth and Attainment (centrally identified strategic directions for all schools in NSW), Teacher Quality and High Potential Gifted Education and Engagement have been collaboratively designed in consultation with staff, community and students to set the direction for school improvement over the next four years. A copy of the 2021 to 2024 SIP is accessible from the school website. Along with the three strategic directions, the school vision statement and context statement, major initiatives to achieve the strategic directions and progress measures are also available for community perusal.

P&C

Congratulations to Irene Omeros who was elected JCBTHS' P&C President for 2021 at the Annual General Meeting earlier in the term. The P&C meet every term around week four. Meeting days alter between Tuesday and Wednesdays. Meeting preparations and mingling starts at 5:30pm with the actual meeting starting at 6pm. All meeting dates and minutes are available via the school website and parents are encouraged to attend. Extraordinary planning meetings are also held when necessary.

The P&C are currently organising a Bunnings Warehouse BBQ fundraiser on Saturday 22nd May. A JCBTHS P&C WhatsApp group has been created to allow members to easily communicate with each other. The next P&C meeting is scheduled for the 11th May if you would like to attend.

A great loss to our community

In March I notified all parents of the unexpected and tragic passing of one of our beloved Year 11 students. The loss has had an enormous impact on all of us. I thank those parents and community members that have expressed their condolences and provided kind words of support. I have been in contact with the student's family and passed on your condolences on behalf of the school.

Our wellbeing team (School Psychologists Ms L. Alessandri and Ms C. Rokobauer, Mr John Dangas, Mr Hades) and the department's student support team has been working closely to assist any students in need.

Please ensure that you monitor your son's wellbeing over the holidays and next term. If your son or any of his friends are exhibiting any signs of distress or changes in their regular mood please advise a member of the staff or if after hours contact any of the mental health services and supports listed below.

Mental Health Services and Support

Lifeline 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services 13 11 14 lifeline.org.au	Beyond Blue 24/7 mental health support service 1300 22 4636 beyondblue.org.au	QLife LGBTI peer support and referral 1800 184 527 (1pm-10pm daily) qlife.org.au (online chat 3pm-12am daily)	Mensline 24/7 counselling service for men 1300 78 99 78 mensline.org.au
headspace Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25 1800 650 890 (9am-1am daily) headspace.org.au/eheadspace (online chat 24/7)	1800RESPECT 24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse 1800 737 732 1800respect.org.au	Suicide Call Back 24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide 1300 659 467 suicidecallbackservice.org.au	Kids Helpline 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25 1800 55 1800 kidshelpline.com.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.

Logos: be you, Beyond Blue, With delivery partners: Early Childhood Australia, headspace, Funded by: Australian Government Department of Health. Illustration of a man and a woman talking on mobile phones.

Student drop off, pickup and carpark access

I would also like to acknowledge the patience that has been demonstrated by parents and carers who are dropping off or picking up their children from Hogben Street Kogarah. During term 1, I have met with representatives from Transport NSW, School Infrastructure, local councils and representatives from the F6 Stage 1 project to improve safety for students entering and exiting the school and to discuss suitable pickup and drop off arrangements for students arriving or departing in parent vehicles. I will continue to meet with local members over the school holidays to obtain appropriate arrangements for our parents and carers dropping off and picking up their sons.

Please note the school gates are closed half an hour before school start and finish times. School gates are open during other times of the day and if you need to attend school during these times you are able to park in the school carpark.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns that you have regarding drop off, pickup or student safety entering or exiting the school please call or email the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support this term. Just a reminder that school resumes for all students on Tuesday 20th April. Student time tables always start on week A when they return from holidays.