



Principals Message

James Cook Boys
Technology High School

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End of Term 4 2021

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Principal - Mark Marciniak

End of term preparation

After an incredibly long, arduous, and unpredictable year we are almost at the end. Before we break on Thursday 16th of December (last day for students) will be holding our presentation day ceremonies to acknowledge and reward our students. This year we will again be holding our presentation days in year or stage groups in accordance with current COVID 19 guidelines. Unfortunately, parents and guests will not be able to attend. Students in Year 11 will be having their presentation day on Tuesday 14th of December in the morning followed by Year 9 and 10 in the afternoon. On Wednesday the 15th students in Years 7 and 8 will have their presentation day. Although parents are unable to attend, we are investigating the potential for parents and carers to view the presentations via a virtual live link or to access a recording. Should we be able to proceed with a virtual link to the presentations an email and text message will be sent to parents/carers on the day.

Semester 2 student reports will be emailed to parents/carers at the end of this week (Thursday 16th or Friday the 17th December) as per every year there is no parent interview meetings. If you would like further feedback regarding your sons progress this semester please contact their Year Advisor. As mentioned, the last official day of school for students is Thursday 16th December. Staff will be onsite on Friday 17th of December until 1:30pm.

The 2022 school year start on Tuesday 1st of February for Years 7, 11 and 12. Wednesday 2nd of February for Years 8, 9 and 10. Staff will resume back on Friday the 29th of January if you need to contact the school. These dates along with other important dates are accessible from the school's webpage on the bottom of the main page.

Check-in assessments

During this term our Learning Team has been running literacy and numeracy tests for students in Years 7 and 8 to assess the impact that COVID 19 non face to face learning has had on their expected achievement growth. This data will be analysed to enable resources to be directed through the Learning Team and inform teachers which students will require additional learning support in 2022. This year the Department of Education has announced it will continue the Intensive Learning Support Program (ILSP) funds to support student learning in 2022.

STEM Garden

After our STEM Coordinator Mr Gerges successfully applied for a sustainability grant at the beginning of the year our STEM garden is up and running. The garden located on a small plot near the science and maths block and our new Food Tech building at the back of school has become an exciting new learning space.

Under the watchful eye of one of our P&C members Mr Omeros, students have had the opportunity to plant a variety of vegetables in the garden beds and assist in building an integrated watering system. Although the garden is in its infancy stage it has attracted a lot of interest and high levels of engagement from the students who have had the opportunity to participate. We look forward to seeing the garden continue to flourish and be a source for student learning.

Properties update.

Despite the COVID 19 disruptions and the recent wet weather the construction work on the school carpark is continuing. In addition to the carpark the school will also have a new entry and exit with electronic gates installed, additional security gates and fences inside the carpark, a new pedestrian access point at the front of the school near the overhead footbridge and pedestrian safety crossings leading into the school. The front signage wall will also be redesigned with a new garden.

The new synthetic multicourt and garden seating at the back of the oval is almost complete. This new space is a much-anticipated sporting and play area that the students have been looking forward to using.

During the year we have been very fortunate to have received so much remediation work carried out by school infrastructure. Work to date has included new roof and gutters on the Administration Block and the School Hall, internal painting of the Administration building and the hall, the internal painting of Banks or B block and the majority of Cook or C Block and replacement carpet in identified classrooms.

A new student services office has been completed. This allows students quick access to support staff to pick up a timetable, get early leavers note, collect a replacement laptop, or borrow a laptop charger. This is a one stop shop for all student enquiries.

The boy's toilet block that was due for repainting and renovation had to be put on hold due to the discovery of termites. Hopefully this project will be completed over the holidays. In addition to the carpark work that will continue over the holidays new roofs will also be installed in the STEM block and on the school canteen.

I would like to thank our Business Manager Mrs Maggs for her tireless work this year in making all these projects come to fruition.

P&C Contribution

During this year the P&C have been extremely busy raising money and applying for grants to assist in the beautification of the school quadrangle area. Led by the P&C President Mrs Omeros, they have organised two very successful Bunnings BBQ fund raisers and applied for two community grants. In total they have raised more than fifty thousand dollars. Some of that money has been spent to purchase two water refill stations for students and the other amount will go towards the school oval lighting project. This is an extraordinary effort despite the barriers that were present during COVID lockdown. I would also like to thank our local state member Mr Kamper for supporting our community grant application.

Extra-Curricular projects

This term we were still able to provide our students with learning opportunities outside of school accessing local partners and new projects. Students in Year 9 and 10 were able to connect with presenters from Shopfront. We have an established partnership with Shopfront and this term they continued to provide engaging workshops in film making via virtual sessions.

In addition, our First Nations students worked virtually on an online Koori Kids poetry workshop with Dakota Feirer. This was the first time that we had partnered with Sans Souci primary school to work collaboratively across primary and secondary schools in our area to provide our First Nations students with an opportunity to connect with their culture.

I would like to thank Mr Jennings the Principal of Sans Souci Public School for initiating the project and inviting our school to participate.

White Ribbon Day has always been a special day for our school over the previous five years and this year was no different. Once again JCBTHS took a lead role with our teachers and Student Support Officer facilitating workshops with primary school students from Carlton Public School and Sans Souci Public School. Students from the two schools learnt about the importance of respectful relationships and then were supported by our English teachers to create a poem about the importance of White Ribbon Day. Our own students participated in a school assembly that was led by our school leadership team marking the importance of the day. Students also participated in cohort workshops with our Student Support Officer once again highlighting the responsibility that men have in speaking up and standing up to put an end to gendered violence in our community.

School Captains 2022

Congratulations to our newly elected student leadership team of 2022. After an alternate election process that involved candidates completing a recorded interview with Mr Sawford (Year 11 Advisor) and Mr Bulfon (relieving SRC Coordinator) and then having students and staff complete an online voting process the ballots have been counted.

Our 2022 Student Leadership Team consists of School Captains: Sam Sabarinathan and James Maidiotis. Senior Prefects are Sam Petsoglou and Alexandre Marco. This year we allocated three more Prefect positions that were allocated to Paul Vedroumianos and Ansh Khadka and Manu Tau.

The boys have already started their official duties that include running the Monday morning assemblies, raising the flag and leading the white Ribbon Day assembly.

HSC Exams

The last official HSC exam was held on the 3rd December. Congratulations to our Year 12 2021 for a remarkable effort just to get to the end. As mentioned in my Term 3 Principals Message our Year 12 students showed incredible resilience and fortitude to overcome a never difficult year.

Many of our students have already received early offers to university. We are extremely proud of their achievements and the level of maturity they have shown in such difficult and stressful times.

I would like to acknowledge Oscar Nah Bhanbherk for being chosen to have his visual arts body of work selected to be exhibited in the Art Rules exhibition at Hazelhurst Art Gallery.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a Year 12 graduation evening this year. After consultation with the students, we decided that we would postpone the event until school resumes next year and then hold an event off site to allow parents and guests to attend.

Due to the postponement of the HSC exams students will be receiving their ATAR on the 20th January and their HSC results on the 24th January 2022.

Staffing

As our student enrolment numbers have continued to grow in 2022, we have been able to increase our teaching staff. During this term we have been running recruitment panels to employ new teachers.

I would like to congratulate Ms Zhuang on her successful application for the science position. In addition, we have a new music teacher starting in 2022 Ms Cantrill and we are in the process of finalising a music and history teacher for next year.

Mr Srinivasalu will also be joining the PDHPE faculty next year. Mr Srinivasalu was successful in achieving a transfer from Strathfield South High School.

Ms Meyer Head Teacher English was successful in applying for a Head Teacher position at Lucas Heights Community School and she will be commencing that role next year. Ms Chau will continue to act in the Head Teacher English position until it is filled on a permanent basis.

In 2022 Ms Mehdi from the English faculty and the Year 8 Advisor will be taking maternity leave. Mr Cato from English and Mr Paul from HSIE will be completing their temporary contracts this year. Ms Rokobauer our school counsellor will be moving to another school in the area and her replacement will be Ms Sonja Milinkovic.

Preparing for 2022

A reminder that if your son requires a book pack for next year that they can be purchased online from the front office. The book packs can be couriered to your residence upon request.

Students starting Year 7 and those transitioning into Year 8 in 2022 will be allocated a school laptop under our Technology Transition Program (TTP). All other students will be required to purchase their own laptop under our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. All students are expected to have a fully charged functional device every day as part of their learning equipment. If parents are unable to purchase their son a device, they are able to borrow one from the student services office for short term or long term loans.

Thank you for your support during a very difficult and unpredictable year. I hope that everyone has a peaceful and safe break and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

If you would like to catchup on the latest information and see what is happening at the school, please follow us on Facebook James Cook Boys Technology High School @jcbths.