



Cooks' Watch

James Cook Boys
Technology High School

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Principal – Mr M. Marciniak

In this edition of the Cook's Watch we will cover the events that have taken place during Term two that has provided our students the opportunities to be challenged academically, physically, emotional and spiritually.

Over the previous term our teachers have continued to develop their professional teaching practice through ongoing professional learning in the area of our whole school approach to literacy. We have selected a team of Instructional Leaders who have been developing their expertise in using the Reading to Learn (R2L) program that has been endorsed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Our Instructional Leaders have been refining their skills in the guided reading techniques and the written joint construction to support students reading, comprehension and writing skills. This approach to teaching literacy through all subjects means that every teacher will be responsible for the teaching of literacy and that there will be a consistent approach to reinforce the methodology of explicit teaching that is highly scaffolded. Our Instructional Leaders have also been coaching and mentoring other teachers in the R2L program and providing them with valuable feedback regarding their delivery of the program.

As well as our whole school focus on literacy our teachers have also began developing their skills in the area of differentiation. Differentiation is a strategy used by teachers to develop a deeper understanding of their students learning needs and therefore vary their teaching approach in the classroom to ensure that all students can engage in learning the key concepts and content in a way that relates to each student's individual learning preferences. We will continue our professional learning in the area of differentiation over the next 12 months and we are looking forward to measuring the impact that these strategies make on student academic growth through the analysis of internal and external data.

On Tuesday 2nd July we held our Year 7 to 11 report collection and parent interview evening for Semester 1. It was a pleasure to have so many students attend with their parents and carers to collect their academic mid-year report and listen to the informative feedback from their classroom teachers. It is always highly rewarding to see students making academic progress and sharing their success with their parents. It was also wonderful to receive the feedback of how well our current Year 7 students have transitioned to high school and how well they are doing academically and socially in their first six months of high school.

Deputy Principal – Mr J. Mallios

Throughout the past semester we have been upgrading our facilities making it safer to move around the school during periods of rain. Working with our Assets Management Unit and contractors, we have replaced all walkway awnings, replaced guttering and installed new stormwater pits. To improve the aesthetics of the school, we have also painted the toilet block, walkways and several classrooms along with carpet replacements.

Safety wise, we have added additional lighting to the school carpark and upgraded our walkway lighting to efficient LED fixtures. The upgrades are used daily with our Community Users onsite in the evening and when we hold our events like Open Evenings and Parent Teacher Evenings.

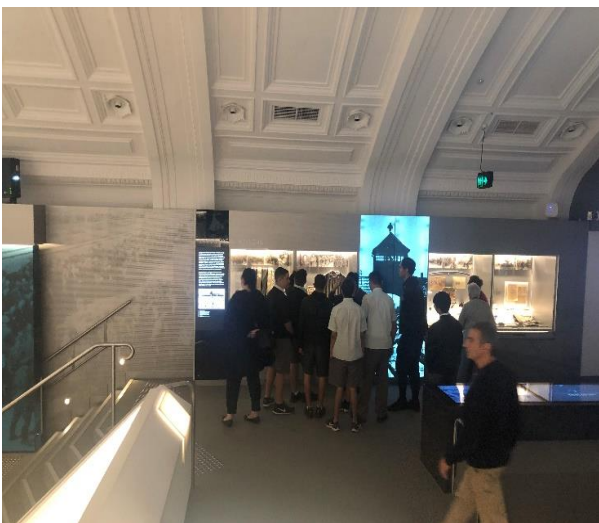
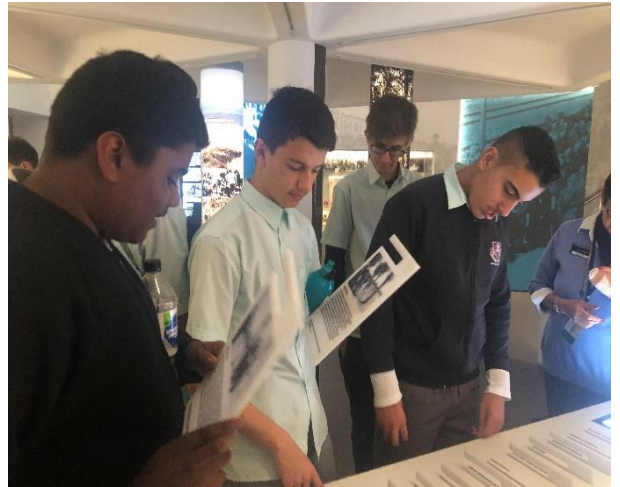
HSC minimum standard testing for students in Year 10 was undertaken in Term 2, their first opportunity to attain the requirement. Year 11 students yet to meet the requirement also had the opportunity to attempt the testing again. The majority of Year 10 students succeeded in their first attempt in the three examinations of Reading, Writing & Numeracy. Students not successful in this round will have an opportunity in Term 4 to achieve the standards.

To further support students, parents and staff in the HSC minimum standards processes we will be assigning a teacher to the development of processes and resources for the HSC minimum standards in the coming months funded by a grant from the Department of Education. We hope to develop skills in the mapping of areas for improvement for individual students based on the feedback report provided at the completion of a test and have a set of activities that may be assigned for the student to complete independently prior to attempting the standards testing again.

Our Learning Support Team coordinated the testing of Year 8 students with Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading and Numeracy. This is the third set of testing Year 8 students have undertaken since commencing in Year 7 and provides valuable information to us on individual progress and where further supports may be needed. Information provided is made available to teachers and often used in the development of Personalised Learning & Support Plans.

Jewish Museum Excursion – Ms M. Zivadinovic

On Tuesday 11th June the Year 10 cohort attended an excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum, as part of their Mandatory Stage 5 studies of The Holocaust and World War II. This was an opportunity for students to hear survivor testimony, tour the museum and engage in seminars about the importance of studying The Holocaust and how it affected our current views on Human Rights. In the aftermath of the Second World War, about 27,000 survivors of the Holocaust migrated to Australia. At the museum, the students interacted with seminar leaders Ari Lander and Breann Fallon and heard from Ella Nathan, who experienced the atrocities of the war as she lived and escaped from the Jewish Ghettos in Poland. Students were able to interact with her and asked her many interesting questions, gaining insights into the realities of the war and its impact on different groups of people. Students were then led around the museum and saw artefacts and evidence from the time period, attaining a deeper understanding of the issues at this time.



Shopfront New Homes: New Laws – Ms M. Zivadinovic

This term, a group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students from the SRC were invited to be a part of the Shopfront New Homes: New Laws Program. Students engaged in a workshop with Mona Ibrahim and Brima Turay to create a series of short films about different and ambiguous Australian laws to be used as resources for young people from refugee and migrant background who have recently arrived in Australia. On a weekly basis students would discuss different laws in Australia and how to best present this information to other young people. The participating students learnt about the art of film-making, including directing, acting, editing, stop-motion animation and camera work. They were also able to attend some workshops at Shopfront Theatre in Carlton and experience working in a theatre space, using professional equipment in order to produce a set of educational and enjoyable films.



At the completion of the workshops students were interviewed by ABC Radio's reporter Gavin Coote and the audio file was aired on ABC's afternoon program. You can access the Podcast from the link below.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/pm/child-ren-create-films-to-help-educate-migrants-on-australian-law/11276036>

St George Zone Carnivals – Mr N. Pikis

During term 2 James Cook competed at two zone carnivals, with some tremendous efforts and results achieved by our students. This has seen a number of students qualify for regional carnivals to represent the St George SSSA.

Special Commendations

Zone Cross Country

Hamoudi Ouldalbasher – 2nd Place 12 years

Malik Ouldalbasher – 3rd Place 12 years

Zone Athletics Carnival

Hadi Saadi – 4th Place 17+ years 200m & 400m

Deon Mawire – 3rd Place 15 years 1500m

Aayran Pokhrel – 3rd Place 15 years high jump

Malik Ouldalbasher – 4th Place 12 years 100m

Hassan Kobeissi – 3rd Place 16 years 100m

Andrew Paipa – 1st Place 16 years shot put

Theo Moudanidis – 1st Place 14 years shot put



NSW Futsal Championship – Mr N. Pikis

On Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th May the JCBTHS futsal teams participated in the NSW Futsal Championships at the Menai Indoor Sports Centre. Both our 16's and Open's teams represented the school with pride with our 16's team missing out on a Semi Finals birth by one point. A special mention must go out to the numerous students who were fasting in preparation for Eid, but still put in super efforts. Looking forward to building on this year's positive results at next year's championships.



NSW Health PARTY Program – Mr B. Yelavich

On Wednesday the 15th of May, all Year 11 students participated in the NSW Health – Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program at St George Hospital. Young people are particularly vulnerable to risk taking behaviours. In 2018:

- 15 per cent of youths between the ages of 15 to 25 years presented to NSW hospitals with severe trauma injuries.
- In the past five years across Australia, there were 1,638 pre-hospital deaths associated with on road traumas in this same age group.



Students completed a 6 hour in-hospital education program, which allowed them to see first-hand the consequences of risk-taking behaviours in everyday life. Throughout the day students:

- Heard from doctors, nurses, allied health staff and paramedics on the harsh reality of poor decision making.
- Spent time in interactive sessions in the emergency room, intensive care and rehabilitation units to understand how it feels to have a severe injury or disability,
- Heard the story of a trauma patient recovering from their injuries.
- Met with an injury survivor who shared their story on how their life has changed and what it is like to have a severe life changing disability.

The day was a great success and credit has to be given to the maturity shown by all the students who participated in the program.

The 2019 Red Shield Appeal – Thirumalesh, Oscar, Dylan and Hadi

The Red Shield Appeal is The Salvation Army's signature fundraising drive which appeals to the Australian community for donations. This year we operated a collection point for the Red Shield at Rockdale Plaza. This was a rewarding experience that indirectly allowed us to be involved in supporting many of the disadvantaged families in our community. Volunteering also helped us reflect on some the core values we seek to develop compassion and respect for others. As individuals we were also challenged to come out of our comfort zones, as we had to approach and collect money from strangers, something we are not used to doing.

The day was very satisfying for us personally as it allowed us to serve the community in a practical way. Through our efforts the Salvation Army are able to raise money for a worthwhile cause, supporting those that face adversities every day in the St George area. It was an excellent opportunity for us to see and meet so many people who did not hesitate to make a donation. Whether it was a kid dropping in some coins or an adult donating \$50, it was a great example of just how generous and caring our local community can be given the opportunity.



King Henry IV Symposium – Innocent Simwanza

On Friday the 28th June from 10am-1pm, year 12 Advanced English students travelled to the University of Sydney's Seymour Centre to attend the King Henry IV Symposium. The day consisted of a lecture by the highly acclaimed 'Sport for Jove' theatre company, followed by a modern interpretation of Shakespeare's play itself. The diverse critical interpretations of the play coupled with commentary from the theatre director & his team helped us draw contemporary analogies to our own experiences and helped make the play real to us, which is very important for our study of this text for the HSC. It was a great day out and helped consolidate our understanding of the layers of meaning within the play.

Archibald Excursion– Ms J. Blatchford

On Thursday 13th June Stage 5 Photography and Year 11 Visual Arts travelled into the Art Gallery of New South Wales to view the 2019 Archibald Portrait Prize. The Archibald Prize is Australia's most prestigious competition for portrait painting and has been running since 1921. This excursion was to provide our Creative Arts students, with the opportunity to experience the art gallery setting and consolidate their knowledge of the conventions of portraiture through the viewing of the exhibition. Students spent time observing and critiquing the finalists, building their core knowledge with real life experiences. The majority of Photography students were drawn to the winner of the Archibald Packing Room Prize winner, Tessa Mackay Western Australian hyperreal artist, *Through the looking glass*. Although the artwork is a painting it looks like a photograph.



Career Development in partnership with MIBT – Ms J. Blatchford



After much organisation at the end of Term 2, 6 Year 10 students have returned to participate in a partnership program with Masters in Building Training (MIBT) focusing on the fundamental skills in the brick and block laying trade. The three day program provided students with both practical and theory based learning opportunities. Students have stepped into the world of work by independently making their way to the site and demonstrating safe work practices by wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment. On successful completion of the course, students will gain certification in three key competencies which are transferrable across various trades and will be identified as Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) units for future career pathways.

Australian Maths Competition – Mr R. Mansour & Mr G. Dawood

James Cook Boys Technology High School will be taking part in the Australian Mathematics Competition, which will be held on Thursday 1st August 2019. This competition has been running annually for more than 40 years, and has participants from 40 countries. It is administered by the Australian Mathematics Trust, which is connected to the University of Canberra.

The competition runs for 75 minutes and is made up of 30 questions. It is a non-calculator competition.

Any students in years 7- 12 may enter the competition regardless of his mathematical ability. Students who enjoy problem solving, like being challenged, or have an interest in Mathematics should consider entering.

Every student who enters will get one of the following:

- Certificate of Participation
- Certificate of Proficiency
- Certificate of Credit
- Certificate of Distinction
- Certificate of High Distinction
- Money prize and / or Medal

This year 25 students from JCBTHS will take part in this competition, we are so proud of our students and we are confident that our students will achieve best possible results.

Results will issued in early Term 4

Boori Pryor Incursion – Darci Tearea & Abbas Kandil

In James Cook Boys Technology High School we had an author named Boori Pryor come to our school and talk about Indigenous stories and some lessons to be learned. We did fun actions to go with them and it was fun to act out these Indigenous stories. The best part was learning things I didn't know about. We split up in groups and drew up artworks to finish the day. – Darci Tearea



When Boori Pryor came to our school we learned many stories from Australia's Indigenous people. We had a lot of fun dancing out the stories and after the dancing we drew the story. After we played with Boomerangs, we were told some stories about the Boomerangs by Boori Pryor. I had a lot of fun and am hoping to have another day like this. – Abbas Kandil

Robotics Transition Program 2019 – Mr R. Jordan

The Robotics Transition Program is now in full swing at James Cook Boys Technology High School with over 250 students from local primary schools having visited our school so far this year. The Robotics Transition program is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative run by JCBTHS in which primary and high school students collaborate to design, build and code robots. This initiative is in its fourth year of operation and is a flagship program run by JCBTHS to build relationships between both students and schools.

To begin each day primary students are welcomed into the school by student helpers and ushered into the school library where they are given a crash course in building and coding robots. Students are guided by James Cook student mentors and learn spatial referencing skills as they piece together their robot creations. Students further develop their logical processing skills as they solve difficult challenges like 'teaching the robotics to recognise human faces' and 'conquering the mountain'.



Being a technology high school, JCBTHS is in a unique position to create teaching and learning programs that future explicitly on 21st century skills sets like problem solving and effective team collaboration. We support the development of these skill sets with both timetabled STEM subjects as well as with co-curricular activities run by teachers across the school.

I wish to thank all student mentors from JCBTHS who make this wonderful program such a success and I look forward to continuing this program for the rest of the year and into the future.

Q and A Excursion – Mr R. Jordan

On a cold Sydney night in early June several Year 12 students from JCBTHS stepped out of their comfort zone and made their way to ABC Studios in Ultimo for a taping of the interactive television program Q & A. Dylan Paraskevopoulos, Santiago Novoa Chala, Sigrid Sinlao, Muhammad Hadi Saadi, Mike Zhao and Thirumalesh Ullal were accompanied by Mr Jordan and Mr Bulfon to the taping of the show.

For anyone unfamiliar with the show, audience members are encouraged to send questions into the producers to be asked to panel members who represent a cross section of society on any particular issue du jour. The discussion on this night revolved around the impact of changing technology on people, how we live our lives and how this technology affects human relationships. It was a



fantastic night with panel members ranging from rapper Adam Briggs to CSIRO head Larry R. Marshall, with spirited debate throughout.

These opportunities offer students a real life experience to interact with leading members of industry and to connect their classroom learning authentically to the changing world around them. Thank you to Mr Marciniak and ABC studios for making this opportunity real for all involved.

Donations of School Uniforms

Has your son outgrown their uniform?

Is your son now in senior uniform and has an unwanted junior uniform still at home?

We gladly welcome second-hand and unwanted uniforms as donations.

Donations can be left at the Front Office.

Uniforms

As the weather gets colder we are moving into our winter uniform which is our black school jumper and long grey pants. Tracksuit pants can only be worn on Wednesdays. Uniforms can be purchased in store from Lowes at Rockdale or through the Lowes website.

If you require any assistance in purchasing a school uniform please contact the schools front office on 9587 1770 and we will be happy to help.

Change of details

It is important that all student information and records are kept up to date. This is particularly vital in the case of emergency where the school needs to contact a student's parents or caregivers.

Have your contact details or phone numbers changed?
Have you moved or changed your residential or postal address?
Are your emergency contact details out of date?

If you answered yes to these questions please update your personal details by contacting the school on 9587 1770.

Carpark

Dear Parents/Carers

Please note that JCBTHS has recently placed speed humps and signage in our carpark. If you are picking up your son after school please try to enter the carpark before 2:50pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you are picking up your son on Wednesday (sport day) please try and arrive before 2:15pm and Thursday before 2pm to ensure that vehicles are not entering the carpark when students are leaving. Once you are in the school carpark please park your vehicle past the planter bed which is in line with the second speed hump. When you have collected your son please be patient when leaving the school and wait for a signal from the staff member present in the carpark that is directing the traffic. Under all circumstances when entering or leaving the school carpark please obey the 10km speed limit and be extremely careful of pedestrians entering or leaving the carpark. Your cooperation in this matter is important to looking after the welfare of our students, staff and community.

