



JOHN EDMONDSON HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Education &
Communities

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

GREAT BEGINNINGS

I'm pleased to say we have had a highly successful start to the new school year and our school has the largest amount of students that we have had in our history. At last count, we have 1176 students in our school.

I would like to welcome Mr Zhukov (Mathematics), Ms Newman (HSIE) and Ms Ismail (Science) as new teachers to our school. I am also pleased that we have been able to permanently appoint Ms Bajada (Science) to our school. Mrs Campbell has now taken up her position as Head Teacher, Science at our school and Mrs Violi has been permanently appointed as Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning.

Recent research supports the fact that comprehensive government schools such as ours provide as good, if not better education to students as non-government schools. There has been some talk that non-government schools somehow offer better welfare support however from our perspective in particular, our welfare support initiatives led by Ms Hulbert and supported by all teachers within the school are second to none. I suspect that many parents are realising (if they did not before) that the education we provide for students in our school is equal if not better than they can achieve in any school no matter Government or non-Government setting.

Exciting plans ahead

We are well under way in finalising our planning for the next three years, a major part of this involves improving student access to technology through display technology such as interactive projectors, large interactive LED screens as well as individual student access to technology through use of devices in the classroom such as laptops and tablets/Ipads. I want to ensure that the

focus is always on improving learning. Technology will not be allowed as a distraction to learning. I have allocated a significant amount of money toward this and students will start to see the fruits of this in coming months.

Thank you P&C

A huge thank you to our P&C for donating \$25,000 toward our school sign that has been recently installed. This is a fantastic addition to our school that allows us to easily tailor messages to our community about upcoming events as well as to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our

students. I know the P&C will be continuing to work hard to raise funds to improve the school and if you can support and attend the Trivia Night on 16th May, it will not only help raise funds but also give you a great night out with wonderful people. Details of this are on our school website.

Arriving to school on time

It is important that all students arrive to school before the first bell of the day. (8.25am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 8.40am Tuesdays) My suggestion would be that students aim to be on school grounds at least ten minutes before the beginning of the day. As I spoke to students recently on assembly, it is important to develop good work habits and lateness to your place of work (and for students this is school) has serious consequences. As parents would be aware, if we are late to work regularly, we will likely lose our jobs – if students are late to school

regularly, they will likely lose their place in the school (if over 17 years old) or face disciplinary consequences.



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JOHN EDMONDSON HIGH SCHOOL

64 Horningsea Park Drive
HORNINGSEA PARK 2171
Tel: (02) 9825 9815
Fax: (02) 9825 9857

Email: jedmondson-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.jedmondson-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

GREAT BEGINNINGS

from page 1

International Student Excellence

I would like to congratulate Azhar Ali, Jaidyn Rice and Paris Davies on their inclusion in the World Martial Arts Championships in July this year in the United States. This obviously is a result of a huge effort and commitment to their sport and we wish them all well as well as every success.

MARTIAL ARTS

Heady heights for young gun

THREE years ago, as he embarked in the sport, Azhar Ali could barely have imagined holding aloft a US Open ISKA World Martial Arts Championship trophy.

Now, it's the image of most prominence in his mind, spurring him through hours of training each week.

The 15-year-old Horningsea Park resident qualified for the US Open by captaining his team sparring side to second place at the World Cup tournament at the Whitlam Centre in October, where he also finished fourth in points sparring.

He will now get his choice of events for the elite US Open tournament, with points sparring and sword combat among the options.

"I'll figure that out closer to the event," he said.

But Azhar is inclined to believe that sparring is his greatest chance of success.

"I'm not sure why, it has always just seemed to suit me ... I've always finished first, second or third in sparring in competitions since I began competing," he said.

He is as excited as he is intimidated by taking on the world's best in his age group.

"This is probably the most prestigious tournament on



Azhar Ali, 15, will fly to Orlando for the prestigious US Open in July.

Picture: ROBERT POZO

the circuit," he said.

"I just want to go over there and to try the best I can and get the best result possible."

"My goal is probably similar to everyone else's - it's to stand there and hold that trophy."

The tournament will be

held in Orlando, Florida on July 2-3.

Azhar trains at IMC Liverpool Martial Arts at Prestons, in an environment he credits with developing his love of the sport.

"The instructors in there are great," he said.

"Everyone's really friend-

ly and it is just a fun place to be."

"I help out teaching the younger kids too, sometimes, when I have time."

Azhar is putting himself through around 10 classes a week to ensure his body and technique are up to scratch for the tournament.

from Liverpool Leader, Dec 17, 2014

Year 8 Camp

Once again a very successful camp for Year 8 at Vision Valley was run. Thank you to Ms Matthews and the large team of teachers who took time out of their busy lives to ensure everything ran smoothly. It was clear in the short time I was able to visit that students had a great time and had the opportunity to develop and show leadership skills. The staff at the campsite told me that they were very impressed with all our students and most particularly some students through their helpful and friendly way. Well done and we look forward to an equally successful camp for Year 8 in 2016 (our current Year 7s).

Great school leaders and community

Congratulations to our student leaders for the magnificent effort they put in toward raising funds to support the Heart Foundation. Over 1000 roses were sold for Valentine's Day raising over \$1300 for the Heart Foundation. It was fantastic to see the whole school community get behind this cause and literally 'share the love' as I know we have had such strong traditions in the past.

Leon Weatherstone
PRINCIPAL

ADMIN MATTERS



Welcome back to 2015. Hasn't the year gone fast already? The administration staff have been very busy getting the year off to a great start. The revamped layout of the office with new carpet has rejuvenated our environment and makes for a more efficient work space.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my team and thank them for their continued hard work and additional time they have been putting in to ensure a smooth transition into 2015. I am very proud of the wonderful work they do for the school and your children.

All families should have received their fees statements by now. If not, please contact the office for a copy. I apologise for the lateness of these being issued and thank those who have already made their payment. We ask that all fees be paid as soon as possible to assist faculties purchase resources for their lessons.

It is imperative to keep your contact details up-to-date with the school. If there have been any changes to your contact phone numbers, your address, emergency contact names and phone numbers and of course, medical information about your child that we should know about, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Lateness/Early Leavers: All partial absences must be advised to the office so that teaching staff are informed of your child's absence. If your child is late to school, they **MUST** come to the office, with a written explanation from you and obtain a late note. The same applies for students needing to leave early. Please provide them with a written explanation for their need to leave early and have them come to the office **BEFORE** school to obtain an early leavers pass. All absences must be explained whether partial or full days.

Should you need to contact the administration office for any reason, please do so on 9825 9815 between the hours of 8:00am and 3:10pm. ★

TAX FILE NUMBERS

The Australian Tax Office has ceased its Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program.

Students who need to apply for a TFN will have to go to ato.gov.au and search for 'QC2724'.

They will need to complete the online application and Proof of Identity documents to an Australia Post outlet. If students

are unable to visit an Australia Post outlet, they will need to then complete the application form Tax file number – application or enquiry for individual form 9NAT 1432.

More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'. ★



**The JEHS P&C meet in the library
on the first Monday of each month.**

**The first meeting for Term 2
will be held on Monday, May 4th,
at 6:30pm in the school library.**



Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Congratulations to the 2015 P&C Executive Committee:

President: Rita Herceg • **Vice Presidents:** Rhonda Elias & Lina Webster
Secretary: Margaret Cvetko • **Treasurer:** Nina Mammoliti

SETTLING IN JUST FINE



I am pleased to report that our new Year 7 students are settling in quite well to high school. We are almost at the end of the first term and they are managing the transition to secondary school very confidently under the guidance of their Year Adviser, Ms Davidson.

I have had the chance to speak with many of them and they are very positive about their first weeks at JEHS. New friendships have been formed, high uniform standards have been maintained

We also have our Cross Country Carnival on the 1st of April and I hope that our Year 7 students would maintain the same levels of enthusiasm and participation.

We have also held an 'Evacuation and Lockdown' drill for all students. This is to prepare them for the evacuation and lockdown procedures, in case the need arises. We also held our annual gathering for the families of Year 7 students on Tuesday, March 10. The 'Year 7 Meet The Teacher BBQ' was a chance to meet and talk with your child's teachers in an informal setting to reassure you that all is well and for you to convey any information that you believe will help in your child's education.



and our attendance records have been impressive. I have visited many Year 7 classrooms and noticed that most Year 7 students are enjoying the learning experiences. Obviously, it will take some time for them to get used to the high school academic setting and requirements, but I have absolutely no doubt that with the right support and guidance from teachers and parents, they will manage it quite successfully. Overall, they seem to be enjoying the high school experience.

Recently, we had our school swimming carnival, which was a great success. It was very pleasing to see the huge participation rates of Year 7 students racing in various events. Out of this we had a strong representation of swimmers at the Zone Swimming Carnival on March 4 & 5.

This term students have had the opportunity to participate in many events including Pop Idol, Clean Up Australia Day and Bell Shakespeare performance....just to name a few. The Junctionworks program workshops 'Managing the Bull' and 'Life Skills Mini Series' are in full action and Year 9 students are selected to take part in these workshops. Also the Blood donation program for Red Cross, coordinated by Mr Tim Moreland, is up and running every second Friday.

The office staff have been busy in checking the EPIPENS, updating Health Care plans and medical records for students. If you are aware of any medical concerns for your child, please ring the office on 9825 9815 and let them know. This is to ensure appropriate medication and treatment can be administered quickly, if needed. ★

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS



Good attendance at school by all students is a high priority at John Edmondson High School. NSW law states that all children between six and 17 years of age are required to attend school regularly, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to make sure that their children attend each day the school is open for instruction.

Regular attendance at school enables children to keep up with their studies and not fall behind their Year group. It helps prevent gaps in learning which may cause issues for the child later on as they attempt to progress to higher years of study.

Regular attendance at school also enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and build important coping and friendship skills. Children are then less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour. All children have a right to an education and through regular attendance at school can make the most of educational opportunities leading to a happy and successful future.

If your child is absent due to illness or family emergency then you are required to explain this absence to the school. This is then recorded on the child's attendance record. Explanation should occur as soon as the child returns to school and within seven school days of the initial absence.

Explanations may be provided by:

- Replying to SMS sent by the school
- Writing a note
- Phoning the school office

Teachers, school administrative staff and other personnel nominated by the principal, may make telephone calls to parents/carers. The reasons for these calls are to:

- inform a parent/carer that their child is absent
- determine if the parent is aware of the absence
- record reasons given by the parent for the absence

A record of the reason will be entered onto the school attendance register. Reasons are only acceptable for up to seven days after the absence.

At various times throughout the year, students with identified concerns about their attendance will be interviewed by the Head Teacher Administration, the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) or a Deputy Principal. At JEHS the HSLO is Ms Marlene Cross.

Concerns with attendance may include:

- An attendance rate lower than 85%
- Unexplained or unjustified absences
- Regular lateness / part day absences
- Extended periods of absence

The purpose of an interview is to promote and support improved attendance at school. A parent/carer meeting may also be required. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about this.

Parents are encouraged to work with the school to resolve any attendance concerns to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved. If you are having trouble with your child's attendance please contact the school as soon as possible so we can assist where possible. ★

GALLIPOLI PREPARATION



On December 16, 2014, the participants of the NSW Gallipoli 2015 School Tour, Emily Egan, James Foster, Nawal Sari, Nilasha Ram and supervising teacher Mr Canobra, travelled to Canberra

for an educational tour at the Australian War Memorial.

Our tour consisted of exploring the World War I gallery, the



Commemorative Area, including the Hall of Memory with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and examining the Roll of Honour. The purpose of this excursion was to provide deeper knowledge and understanding of the Gallipoli battle with

the aim to further comprehend Australia's involvement in World War I, the ANZAC soldiers who gave their lives and the impact of ANZAC Day in shaping Australian society.

The new display also provided new information on the Ottoman soldier that we hope to explore further when we visit Gallipoli in April. ★

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of high school they will have missed close to a whole year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/oolo/school/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving/school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

NUMBER 2 IN THE NATION



Work Health Safety (WHS) is absolutely vital in any work environment. However, when it comes to Industrial Technology and Food Technology, the stakes are higher and it is absolutely important that everyone is safe around machines and equipment. Current WHS legislation indicates that students and staff must undergo instruction and training prior to the use of machines and equipment or before engaging in risk assessed school activities.

At John Edmondson High School, we take the safety of our students and staff very seriously. We utilise an online safety program called 'OnGuard' to deliver the safety modules pertaining to student and staff WHS training. Staff and students can access this program, using their individual user login, at school and at home through the link provided on our school's website.

JEHS teachers in Industrial Technology and Food Technology take great pride in providing a safe, healthy and hygienic work environment for their students in the workshops and in the kitchens. Every year 'OnGuard' publishes a list of



National 'TOP 40' schools based on the number of training sessions delivered in school.

It gives me great pleasure to report that our school has ranked 2nd in the National 'TOP 40' OnGuard Schools list. I would like to congratulate the Industrial Technology and Food Technology teachers for their outstanding efforts in making their faculty workspaces safe and also for diligently delivering this safety program. ★

G'DAY USA - JANUARY 2016



JEHS is organising a group of students to participate in this wonderful student exchange in January 2016, organised by Educational World Travel. Three groups from JEHS have been organised in the past and this school holiday program has been successful, rewarding and a great deal of fun.

Students need to be between the ages of 14 and 18 years old at the time of the trip as one of the highlights will be a ten day homestay with an American family and the experience of high school in USA.

The trip also includes time in Los Angeles to see Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios as well as sightseeing in San Diego and San Francisco. There will also be tours and activities in the city where the group will be hosted.

Already our eager group of students has met to determine our preference for a host city and Seattle was the winner,



although we have included a second and third choice. Students are just about to complete a biography which will be used to match them with an American student of the same gender

and age with similar interests. We are also about to begin fundraising to offset some of the costs.

There is still room for students to participate in the trip which will cost \$5,495.00 (including insurance).

For more information please contact me during school hours or view the G'day USA website for more information. ★

WAYSIDE CHAPEL



The Wayside Chapel, a healing place of community, helps to draw people out of social isolation. Katrina Trinh, member of the Student Leadership team reports.

It is a community service centre providing compassion, tolerance and support for those who are marginalised by substance abuse, homelessness and mental health.

On Monday 23rd February, the leadership team visited the Wayside Chapel. We learnt about the community service centre, youth space and outreach service, mental health

kindness and love that the community service centre gives to those in need. Robert guided us around Wayside Chapel as we looked at the buildings where different programs were running. He opened our eyes to a new perspective on the community and the ways we can help those in need. We learnt about equality and how we should all look at one another in the same way regardless of your background or mental or physical condition.

By visiting Wayside Chapel, we not only obtained valuable knowledge and understanding on how the community service centre works but the importance and meaning of it to many individuals. We would like to pass on a message to every student that an act of kindness can come in any



program, twilight team, community cafe and Aboriginal projects. We learnt about how these programs were created to ensure that the most disadvantaged members of the community have access to essential health, welfare, social and recreational services.

Robert Holt, a volunteer of Wayside Chapel, spoke to us about the history and development of the community service centre, its objectives and the environment. Robert, who was once a visitor of Wayside Chapel, told us about his personal story and through this, we learnt a lot about the dedication,

form; it could be a small donation or even just being polite to another person. We may not be able to help everyone out there however everyone can help someone. The excursion to Wayside Chapel was different but unforgettable. After Robert had finished his tour around the centre, we were all left feeling extremely inspired and motivated.

On behalf of the leadership team we would like to thank Ms Young, Ms Hayward and Mr Campbell for organising and running this excursion. It was truly an extraordinary experience for the leadership team. ★

WELCOME YEAR 7, 2015



It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for our new Year Seven cohort but they have hit the ground running. Teachers have been commenting on the confidence and competence with which most students have begun their time as high school students.

There have been social skills programs, a Valentine's Day fundraiser and the Swimming Carnival to help ease them in and show the fun aspects of high school, and our Year Seven students have participated in these enthusiastically.

that we post all assessment tasks on the John Edmondson High School website. Here, too, students can find a *Request For Consideration* form (under the assessment tab), which they can print out and hand in if for some unavoidable reason they are unable to meet the deadline of a particular assessment task.

It has been an absolute pleasure meeting Year Seven this year. They are full of stories, jokes, handball tricks and general merriment. I am a very proud Year Adviser already and looking forward to a big and successful year ahead for our year group.

Well done to Jenna Ebel, Vicky Jung, Sebastian Vargas, Teneisha Nwuka, Lachlan Hellyer, Vanessa Tjea, Cheyenne



Most students have adapted to the responsibilities of high school smoothly. All have been given a diary and an assessment calendar to assist them in preparing for all upcoming tasks and for remembering to complete their homework. High school is quite different to primary school in terms of the need for students to be independent and more responsible for their own learning. A reminder

Galway-Quinn, Zidanio Valente and Abraham Zumaya. These 7 students have participated in our Assembly Stewards program, helping to run our weekly assembly. This can be daunting to an audience of approximately 1100 yet all these students have been wonderful representatives of Year Seven. ★

FIRST TIME FOR ELECTIVES



The start of 2015 has been a relative smooth but busy time for Year 9. Students are experiencing new courses for the first time with two out of their eight subjects being electives that they have chosen.

We have also had an influx of new Year 9 students at JEHS with 12 beginning here at the start of this year. I would like to welcome Khader Al-Bakkour, Adeebah Ali, Jad Bassal, Brian Flores, Hamad Hamad, Krestyan Hanna, Samara Hansford, Brooke Keuenhoff, Thomas King, Ervin Kumar, Ali Salem and Ala Uddin Yaghi.

It was great to see many Year 9 students attend and participate at the recent Swimming Carnival. It was once again a very enjoyable day and the students were very well

behaved. The Cross Country Carnival will be held towards the end of Term One so it would be great to see even more of the Year 9 students attend.

While it is Term One, summer uniform is worn and it's important that students maintain their excellent standards from previous years. A few students have been wearing hats inside classrooms and this is not allowed. Please support us with ensuring your child meets our expectations with uniform.

Lastly we have been very lucky to have secured the services of Junctionworks who are providing free workshops for our students to enhance and develop their communication and life skills. Currently 20 Year 9 students will be doing this workshop for the next six weeks. I hope to get as many students as I can into these workshops throughout the year as they provide valuable skills that will help them for the rest of their life. ★

A BIG YEAR AWAITS!



The Record of School Achievement (ROSA) is a cumulative record of school achievement from Year 10 and Year 11 studies.

To satisfy all the requirements of the ROSA all students must complete all formal assessment tasks. If a student is absent for an assessment task they must submit an Illness/Misadventure

Request stating the reason(s) they were unable to submit the task on the due date.

The completed form must be lodged with Mrs Violi who is located in the school library. If an Illness/Misadventure request is not submitted or denied, the student will receive a zero for the task.

Receiving a mark of zero will adversely affect the student's results for the course. Making a genuine attempt with all aspects of classwork and formal assessment tasks is essential as Year 10 learn to work independently and develop the note taking and study skills this year that will assist them in Stage 6.

Another concern for Year 10 students is ensuring that they comply with all school rules, especially uniform and

punctuality. School attendance needs to be 85% or above to satisfy the Board of Studies requirements. Additionally, students need to be punctual in arriving at school and arriving to class.

Students should check their DET Portal regularly as Mrs Violi frequently emails information about training opportunities, study skills and other information important to Year 10.



Already this year students have distinguished themselves in sport. Daniel Cunningham and Brady Moore have been selected for the Sydney South West School Sport Baseball team. Jayden Hoffman was selected for the Zone Rugby League team. Many Year 10 Girls were included in the KO Open Girls Soccer team: Chloe Kedde Reigert, Emma Johnson, Zawat Elmorad, Allysha Gratten, Kayla Spurway and Penny Protogeros. ★

VISION VALLEY CAMP



Year 8 has had a busy start to 2015. Camp at Vision Valley, new classes, new students and the annual swimming carnival.

The Year 8 Camp at Vision Valley was a huge success with many of the students having a great time. The most pleasing thing about the camp was the behaviour of the students. The staff at Vision Valley commented on how well mannered our students were. A huge thanks must go to Mr Claydon, Mr Dwyer, Miss Ryan, Miss Bajada, Miss Davidson, Ms Lear and Mrs Ericksen who gave up their time to go on camp.

have their hat for PDHPE.

By now, students should be feeling a lot more at ease in their new classes. Changes have been made for a variety of reasons but most importantly to create a new dynamic that we feel is in the best interest for your child. It has the added benefit of your son or daughter getting to know other students in their grade.

As always, students have been able to get involved in many activities run by our school. Pop Idol in week 7 saw many Year 8 students show off their singing talents. We also had 14 students involved in *Clean Up Australia Day* campaign with Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Campbell that helps keep our environment beautiful. Thanks to those students involved.



While overall the students have made a good start to Term 1, it is essential that I re-iterate some of the key rules at JEHS. We have a strong stance on attendance with the minimum rate being 85% throughout the year. Punctuality is also important, make sure your child arrives on time. If your child is away, please reply to the text message you get to explain your child's absence. A reminder that hats are a compulsory item in PDHPE uniform so your child must

The 2015 JEHS swimming carnival has been and gone and many year 8 students competed. Although the weather wasn't too kind to us, it was great to see so many Year 8 students in attendance. Congratulations to Tahlia Block, 13 years girls age champion as well as Nelufer Raji and Luke Baker for 14 years girls and boys age champions, respectively.

It is very pleasing to say that the 2015 Year 8 Vision Valley Camp was a huge success with 151 students having an awesome time while gaining valuable life skills that will help them not only in class but life outside of school. Many of the skills that were focused on were based on strong communication, trust, teamwork and leadership.

Some of the activities that students were able to participate in were Archery, Canoeing and Bush Cooking where they got to make and eat their own Damper... Yum!

The activity that seemed to test most of the students was the Vertical Challenge in which they had to climb up to the top of a telegraph pole and jump off. It was amazing to see the kids push themselves past the fear of heights and complete this. The 120 metre Flying Fox and the Waterslide were the favourite activities with most students never wanting it to end.



The most pleasing aspect on this camp was the level of behaviour that was shown by our students. They were a credit to themselves and the school. Staff at Vision Valley gave us the compliment that we were one of the best groups they have ever had. This is high praise considering the thousands of schools that they have had there in the past. Something

else I was very pleased with was the amount of teamwork that was shown in each activity. Students that had never socialised with each other in school were helping each other out in any way possible.

It made me very proud to be Year 8 Adviser. For all the photos from camp, checkout the school website.

Thankyou to the teachers that came along it is a HUGE effort to go away from their OWN families for three days and I know the students and I really appreciated it.

Most students had an experience of a lifetime with many wanting the camp to go for a whole week and not wanting to leave. ★

John Edmondson High School P&C presents...

2015 Fundraiser Trivia Night



**Saturday,
May 16th, 2015**

Austral Bowling Club

Edmondson Avenue, AUSTRAL

Arrive 6:30pm • Trivia starts at 7:00pm

\$20.00 per person

** includes one complimentary glass of beer,
wine or soft drink on arrival*

Teams of 8

**ADULTS ONLY
NO STUDENTS ALLOWED**

**For tickets sales contact
Rita on 0414 809 115**

A NEW YEAR ADVISER



Due to Mrs Campbell's recent appointment to Head Teacher of Science at JEHS, she is unfortunately unable to maintain her official roll as Year Adviser of Year 12, 2015. It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I will be overseeing their final year of high school.

Year 12 are now well into their Higher School Certificate studies with their Half Yearly Examinations and Assessments just around the corner. It is important to be aware of upcoming tasks and maintain a regular study schedule. Their assessment calendar for the entire year is available on the school website and should be used to help organise and prioritise their school work. If a task is missed, it is vital that an Illness/Misadventure Form be submitted, along with any supporting documentation, on the student's first day back at school. The approval of these forms are not guaranteed so when possible it is advisable to submit tasks early. (The forms can be downloaded from the school's website)

Study Planners are available so students can organise their time efficiently and allow adequate revision time around all of life's commitments. If your child is struggling to create their own study plan, I am more than happy to sit down with individual students to help them set their own achievable program. Having a strong routine now will pay dividends come crunch time in July and October.

Recently a number of students have elected to discontinue their studies in one of their subjects. While this may have been a well thought out choice by many, it is important to remember that their HSC now relies on all their remaining subjects, as they no longer have those extra units as a safety net. Dropping subjects now also means that they have extra Study Periods during the day. It is important to consider them as Study Periods and not Free Periods. It is expected that all students use these times effectively to revise work, complete homework or assessment tasks and start completing past HSC papers. Past HSC papers give the best indication of what content may be covered in their own HSC Examination and how questions are phrased. These

papers can be found for all subjects on the BOSTES website, along with sample answers and markers comments.

Many students begin to stress about what they will do after school and worry what will happen if they don't achieve a particular ATAR. Please remind them that there are many ways for students to achieve their goals and it is not always the conventional method of entering university or TAFE immediately. For some, entering the workforce can be most beneficial as it helps them to mature and subsequently perform better if they later choose to enter further academic studies as they take ownership of their own education and have a better idea of what field they would like to pursue. Entering a college or TAFE course can also be used as a stepping stone into a university course they may not have been accepted in to on their ATAR alone. Remind them that the HSC is not the single most defining point of their lives that will dictate their trajectory for the rest of their lives. They have choices and every student is different. Simply encourage them to do their best and be proud of their accomplishments.

In other news the Leadership Team coordinated a very successful fundraising campaign for the Heart Foundation by selling roses for Valentine's Day. It is safe to say that JEHS is a school in love with 1000 roses collated and distributed to students. The sale of these roses allowed an impressive donation of \$1320 to be made which will be very useful in furthering heart

research in Australia. By the end of these endeavours, the leadership team were truly exhausted but thoroughly enjoyed the preparation and the chance they had to bring smiles to many people's faces by being Cupid for the day. Left over roses were then distributed to the often overseen members of the school, including the canteen ladies.

Preparations are well underway for the organisation of the Year 12 Jackets. Students will have the privilege of being able to wear them during Term 3 if they choose to make a purchase. This will be a great keepsake for them all to enjoy.

I look forward to the time ahead and am already proud of the progress students have made. It is a privilege to lead them in their final year. ★



ENGLISH HAVE A BUSY START



We have had a busy start with many opportunities for students to become involved in extra curricula activities planned for this year. We would like also to welcome Ms Lavorato presently replacing Mr Doyle who has retired from teaching. While we will miss Mr Doyle's wisdom and experience Ms Lavorato's enthusiasm and dedication will be an asset to the faculty.

Mr Hilton will be coordinating debating and public speaking this year and is looking for students for each of the grade teams. Debating will include the formal inter-school competitions as well as opportunity for JEHS teams to debate each other internally. Public speaking competitions will be publicised to all students and a school based competition may be organised to determine who will represent our school. These extra curricula activities are an effective way to develop logical thinking and quick responses. The English curriculum requires students to practise their speaking skills and there is a common assessment task that involves speaking each year from Year 7 through to Year 12. Participating in these activities will assist students in the development of these skills and increase confidence when speaking to an audience.

Ms Jane has established a JEHS book club. This group meets regularly to discuss what is happening in the world of books. The atmosphere is friendly, fun and informal and of course any student is welcome. Later in the year she will also be coordinating the JEHS Writing Competition where winners from each stage are judged and rewarded with money prizes kindly funded by the P&C. The overall winner has their name inscribed on a perpetual trophy presented at the school's Presentation Night. When this year's writing topic has been decided, details will be advertised to the students.

Year 9 English and Drama, and Year 10 Drama had the opportunity of attending a theatre performance in the school hall on Wednesday, March 18.

The Bell Shakespeare company's Actors at Work troupe performed parts of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. This is always a fun event and helps make Shakespeare accessible for students. At \$8.50 it is well worth the price and should help students with their understanding of the language and Elizabethan comedies, as well as assisting with the 'Shakespeare's World and Works' assessment task in the following week.

We are looking forward to having a productive year in English. Please feel free to contact us about any of these planned activities. ★

LESSONS AFLOAT & BIG DIG



Once again HSIE subjects have proven to be exceptionally popular; across Year 11 and 12 there are eight Business Studies classes, three Ancient History and Legal Studies classes and, two classes in Modern history, Society and Culture, and Work Studies!

We also have an academically rigorous class for students of history in year twelve, called 'History Extension'. Furthermore, History Elective is also now running for year nine students and, Japanese is running for year ten and eleven students! Last but certainly not least, Commerce has remained very popular amongst our year nine and ten students, boasting an impressive three classes!

In other news the HSIE Faculty has some important excursions that students should be aware of, to ensure they pay on time and are able to attend. The HSIE Faculty is happy

to announce to our Year 10 Geography students that very soon they will all be given the opportunity to participate in the exceptionally popular "Lessons Afloat" excursion to Darling Harbour. This event is organised by Ms Young and has proven a hit with students on every occasion it has run. We anticipate a day filled with fun and more importantly, filled with education! History Elective and Year 11 Ancient History will also be running two separate excursions. These are to The Rocks at Darling Harbour, in order to give these students the opportunity to be involved in "The Big Dig". This has been specially designed for students of history with an interest in Archaeology and the methods historians use to investigate the past. ★



WORK READY SUCCESS



It is pleasing to see that the Year 7 cohort is settling in well to the demands of the Technology curriculum. At the start of Term 1, all students were informed about the expectations and requirements in order to successfully complete the course. Teaching staff have also been busy learning the names of the students in their new classes.

Year 7 and 8 Technology classes have started their new topics for the year. Students are working well towards production of practical projects. Year 7 are designing a Webpage on healthy eating recipes using Weebly. And Year 8 have started creating a wall hanging using their imagination. Technology teachers are enjoying teaching the students about food, sewing, wood and also computing skills that will be useful throughout their high school years.

Students have also been completing online, mandatory safety training modules using the OnGuard system which is accessible through the school's website. This will enhance their safety knowledge and enable us to keep thorough records of each student's safety training throughout their high school years.

The inaugural Year 9 Child Studies class have been examining different family types and the functions of the family. Students were given different scenarios of family types and produced a canvas which displayed the family type.

The Hospitality course offered students the opportunity to excel in learning experiences closely related to future employment opportunities and life skills readily available in the world by preparing them through a Work Ready Program. On February 20, Year 11 Hospitality students participated in the *Work Ready Program*. It was a whole day

withdrawal of all VET students in school to conduct a one day program, rotating through a number of sessions. Two industry people; Anjelo - owner of Cucina105 and Nikki Heald from South West Connect, visited on the day to talk to students. Mock interviews were conducted by external interviewers from SWC, which was a great experience for our students.

The ongoing support that parents provide to ensure their children are properly equipped for practical and theory lessons is very much appreciated. I would like to remind all students and parents to finalise fees for 2014 & 2015. This removes the burden from the class teacher and students and it saves valuable class time.

Please ensure that correct black leather school shoes are worn each day. It is a mandatory requirement by DEC and this also makes a big difference to a student's ability to fully participate in all teaching and learning experiences each lesson.

We welcome Mrs Adams and Mr Singh to our Home Economics Faculty.

Year 11 Work Ready Program

by Alyssa Gillgren & Dylan Chanthabouly



On Friday, February 20th, Year 11 Hospitality students attended a work ready program in the school library. Our day started with completing a workbook on healthy work practices, WHS practice, and harassment and bullying in the work force. The students had two guest speakers, the owner of Cucina 105, Angelo and a motivational speaker from South West Connect, Nikki. Year 11 Hospitality students had to prepare and submit a portfolio for a mock interview. The students were pleased to hear that they were getting a FREE lunch and morning tea and the food was enjoyed by all.

Year 11 Hospitality students would like to show their appreciation for the work and opportunities that have been presented to them. In their words, "We would like to thank Mrs Khanna and Mrs Violi for their dedication, time and effort into putting the work ready program together". ★

NEW HEAD TEACHER



Welcome to another year. I would like to introduce myself to all as the new Head Teacher of Science and I welcome a new member of staff, Mrs Loyal Abdul-Ismael, as well as congratulating Miss Bajada who has been permanently appointed to the Science Faculty.

Year 7 students have eagerly participated in experimental work and investigations. Year 7 students have gained knowledge in scientific concepts, continually developing skills in practical and laboratory work, safety and equipment use. Students have explored various branches of Science, gained skills in scientific report writing and investigated various separation techniques.

The Australian Curriculum for Year 8 has commenced this year with students investigating plants and ecosystems. Some of the activities that students have investigated and performed are: dissection of flowering plants to identify parts associated with plant reproduction; investigating the importance of chlorophyll in plants and photosynthesis and how water travels throughout the plant.

"Plate Tectonics, Cycles and Disasters are topic areas that year 9 are exploring. Students gain a better understanding of the structure of the Earth and what causes volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis and cyclones. Understanding these scientific concepts is vital to understanding the impacts on our lives. While students in Year 10 are developing an understanding of Genetics and Evolution, a key part of Biology.

All senior students are preparing for major assessments for all senior courses. A very crucial time for Year 12 in particular. To consolidate what students are learning in class, both Year 11 Senior Science and Biology students participated in activities and investigations at Georges River- for the area of the study 'The Local Ecosystem'.

Mrs Sullivan and Year 8 students were involved in *Clean Up Australia Day*. This demonstrated to the general public that young people (Year 8 students) can lead by example by collecting a wide range of rubbish discarded by thoughtless travellers as they drive roads in the local area.

Teachers of Science continue to aim to develop critical thinking skills and creativity in all students, equipping students with skills that will prepare them for further study in Science and related areas. ★

BIG DAY IN @ UTS



We are very excited about the things that are happening this term in the Computing Studies Faculty. We have Computer Club, BiG Day In @ UTS excursion and the first ever JEHS Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge.

Computer Club starts back for 2015!!!!

If you are interested in computer technology, come to G02 every Thursday Week B. We want to see you there....

The much anticipated BiG Day In @ UTS excursion was on March 5th. It is a Careers Conference in the Great Hall at UTS and our students heard speakers from companies including Microsoft, Animal Logic (LEGO

Movie), Westpac, WiseTech Global, TCS, Telstra, IBM, HP, CBA and more. Our students were exposed to experts of the industry and displays that will familiarize students with the future direction of careers in technology.

Last but not least, the Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge is an international initiative which aims to promote computational thinking. It supports the new Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum and is funded by the Australian government. The students form their own teams and complete a series of questions. Anyone

in years 8 to 10 can participate. Come join the fun and train your brain to think computational concepts. If joining a team and solving problems sounds

like something you would enjoy, please see Mrs Adams for a participation note. ★



JEHS 2015 EVENTS CALENDER

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
T1 W9	Mar 23 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams Australia Geography Competition @ JEHS	Mar 24 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams U15 Girls Soccer <i>JEHS vs Liverpool Girls HS</i>	Mar 25 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams U14 Rugby League <i>JEHS vs Camden HS</i>	Mar 26 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams Open Boys Cricket <i>JEHS vs Camden HS</i> CHS Swimming Student Science Enrichment Day	Mar 27 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams CHS Swimming Year 10 HSIE Excursion <i>Lessons Afloat</i>
	Mar 30 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams U15 Bill Turner Cup <i>JEHS vs John Therry CHS</i>	Mar 31 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams Year 12 FT Excursion <i>Royal Easter Show</i>	Apr 1 JEHS Cross Country Carnival <i>Western Sydney Regional Parklands, Lizard Log</i>	Apr 2 Year 11 Exams Year 12 Exams Year 11 Debating <i>JEHS vs Canley Vale HS</i> Final Day of Term 1	Apr 3 Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday April 6 to Tuesday April 20 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					
T2 W1	Apr 20 Staff Development Day	Apr 21 First Day of Term 2	Apr 22	Apr 23 Year 11 Ancient History Excursion <i>Big Dig @ The Rocks</i>	Apr 24 JEHS ANZAC Day Ceremony <i>JEHS Auditorium</i> Camp Gallipoli <i>Centennial Park</i>
T2 W2	Apr 27 Year 10 Testing Week Year 9 & Year 12 PDI Excursion <i>@ Art Gallery NSW</i>	Apr 28 Year 10 Testing Week	Apr 29 Year 10 Testing Week	Apr 30 Year 10 Testing Week	May 1 Year 10 Testing Week Year 9 Visual Arts Excursion <i>@ Sydney Aquarium & IMAX</i> World's Greatest Shave <i>@ JEHS</i>
T2 W3	May 4 Year 7 Testing Week SCHOOL PHOTO DAY P&C Meeting <i>@ JEHS Library</i>	May 5 Year 7 Testing Week	May 6 Year 7 Testing Week	May 7 Year 7 Testing Week	May 8 Year 7 Testing Week CATCHUP SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
T1 W4	May 11 Year 8 Testing Week	May 12 Year 8 Testing Week NAPLAN DAY 1 14Yr Boys Futsal <i>@ Bankstown</i>	May 13 Year 8 Testing Week NAPLAN DAY 2	May 14 Year 8 Testing Week NAPLAN DAY 3	May 15 Year 8 Testing Week NAPLAN Catch Up Open Girls & Boys Futsal <i>@ Bankstown</i> 2015 ICAS Digital Technologies Competition <i>@ JEHS</i>
T1 W5	May 18 Year 9 Testing Week	May 19 Year 9 Testing Week JEHS Athletics Carnival <i>Campbelltown Sports Stadium</i>	May 20 Year 9 Testing Week Zone Cross Country Carnival <i>@ Fairfield Showgrounds</i>	May 21 Year 9 Testing Week	May 22 Year 9 Testing Week

Dates are subject to change without notice