

James Meehan News

James Meehan High School



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Issue 2 – Term 3

September 2019

CALENDAR EVENTS Term 4, 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 14.10.2019 18.10.2019				* HSC exams commence (conclude 15/11/2019)	* LEAPS
Week 2 21.10.2019 – 25.10.2019	* Year 11 exit interviews	* Year 11 exit interviews	* Year 11 exit interviews * LEAPS Graduations		* National Teachers' Day
Week 3 28.10.2019 – 1.11.2019	* SES Camp * Speak Up 2019 Aboriginal Public Speaking Competition * Metal course	* SES Camp * Metal course	* Metal course	* Metal course	* Metal course
Week 4 4.11.2019 – 8.11.2019					
Week 5 11.11.2019 – 15.11.2019	* Remembrance Day * HSC finishes	* Drama excursion Years 10/11 * Sydney Olympic Park – Stage 4			* HSC concludes
Week 6 18.11.2019 – 22.11.2019					

Calendar is correct at the time of publication

FROM THE RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As Term 3 draws to a close we acknowledge the graduating class of Year 12 2019. Congratulations to all Year 12 students and their families on reaching this exciting milestone. The students have conducted themselves with a growing maturity over the past few months and the entire school community of James Meehan will watch them graduate with immense pride. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and this is certainly true when it comes to recognising the many people that have contributed to supporting these fine young women and men to complete their secondary education. This includes their parents, carers, extended family members, and of course the teachers and support staff who have supported their journey.

A special thanks must go to Ms Nikolina Radmanovic, who has provided Year 12 with enormous support as their Stage Adviser, and thank you to the many staff who have helped Ms Radmanovic prepare for the final graduation events for Year 12. A special thanks goes to the teachers who have taught Year 12 over the past two years to help each student achieve their personal best. It is important to remember that the students undertaking HSC exams still have some very hard work ahead of them over the coming weeks. On behalf of Ms Dukic and the staff of James Meehan High School, I wish Year 12 all the best for their upcoming HSC exams, as well as wishing each and every graduating student all the best for the exciting future that lies ahead of them beyond school. Well done Year 12!

Over the past 6 weeks I have had the chance to observe students striving to be Respectful, Responsible Learners and to engage in discussions with everyone about the wonderful learning opportunities that take place across James Meehan High School. It has been a busy time over the last 6 weeks, with whole school events such as Multicultural Day and R U Ok? Day, in addition to the important learning events that included the completion of the HSC Drama and Art works, Year 11 exams, the Sign-writing course, and a range of assessment activities across the school. The school is always buzzing with opportunities to extend student learning, which is a true credit to the hard work of all staff, and it is wonderful to see so many students recognised for their hard work at the Term 3 Merit Award assembly! Congratulations to all the award recipients across the school.

I wish to extend a warm thank you to the entire community of James Meehan High School – students, parents and staff, who have all made me feel very welcome in the short time I have been visiting in the school as Relieving Principal. Thank you for allowing me to share a small part of your learning journey, and I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Tania Irons
RELIEVING PRINCIPAL

MY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2019

James Meehan High School submitted an application to the My Community Project for 2019, however we did not receive enough points in the public vote to receive funding. There were over 1,500 great project ideas included in the public vote and the high calibre of projects submitted meant the people of NSW had many good project ideas from which to choose.

Our project, “Changing the Physical and Cultural Landscape of JMHS”, included the following areas:

Cultural Room, outdoor gym, table tennis tables and seating, landscaping the seating around Basketball and Futsal courts, yarnning circle/outdoor classroom and a Pasifica Garden and was submitted by Mr Pabiona, one of our staff members who is on the HSIE/TAS Faculty.

Without the support of our strong community, who rallied behind the school in our attempt and efforts to improve the environment of James Meehan High School, our submission would not have been able to be considered in the project. Our heart-felt thanks for your support during this process.

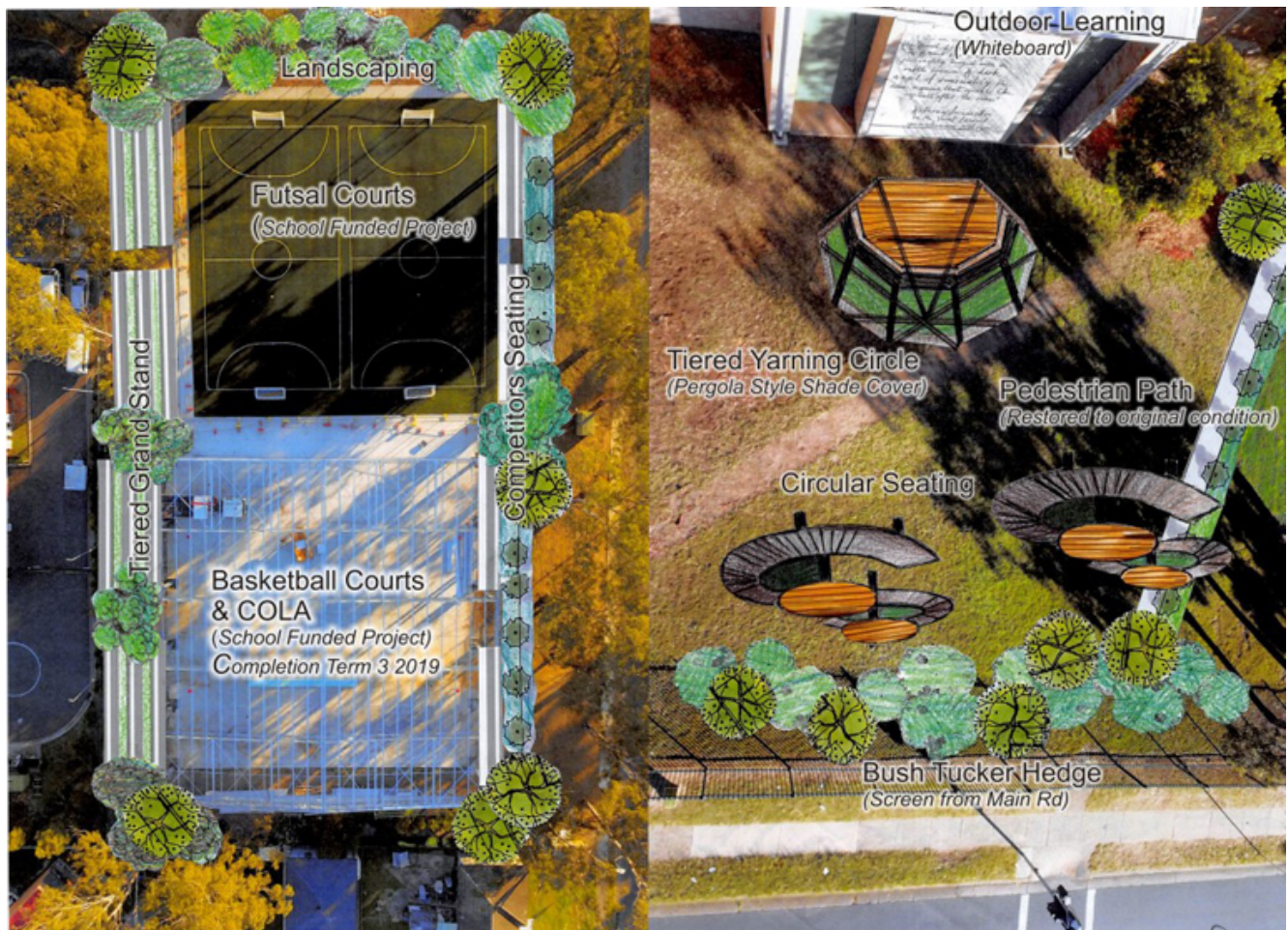
Several staff members assisted with the proposal and their efforts were above and beyond. Sincere thanks must go to Mr Atonio our Community Liaison Officer, who provided sensitive guidance for the Pasifica Garden and who also supported Ms Stead, our School Learning Support Officer in assisting members of our school community who were eligible to cast a vote, complete their vote online through Service NSW with proof of residency; Mrs Redding, our Aboriginal Education Officer; Uncle Charlie who contributed their thoughts and ideas for the outdoor classroom and the Yarning Circle; Mrs Cooper, our Business Manager who worked tirelessly preparing the document to be submitted.

Gathering the necessary information in preparation for submitting our project for consideration, was an exhaustive task and required many hours of liaising with suppliers, seeking quotes, and providing detailed information, which was required to be submitted in the proposal. Mrs Cooper is to be congratulated for her total commitment in making sure all aspects were accurate.

Thank you to everyone from our community who rallied around to support us in this endeavour.

Ms N Dukic
PRINCIPAL (currently on leave)

Please see the example of the details submitted in our proposal.



MY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2019

PDHPE FACULTY REPORT

Health & Physical Education (HPE) Day is a nationwide initiative that highlights the importance of HPE in the Australian Curriculum and its influence on the learning and development of children. To celebrate this day, students across all stages participated in a Futsal competition which fostered skills such as team work, communication, support, encouragement and comradery.

It was a fantastic day with healthy competition and smiling faces. Stay tuned for the continuation of the Stage 4 vs Stage 5 Grand Finals this week!



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS....

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...

**Check the time
your school
starts.
DON'T BE LATE!**



EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



ENGLISH FACULTY REPORT



Former James Meehan High School student and published author Sally-Anne Hurley addressed Stage 6 English students on Tuesday 17 September. She delivered a timely and positive message to our Year 12 students who are preparing to complete their HSC examinations and looking towards life beyond school. Students engaged well with the presentation, asked questions and were rewarded with signed copies of Sally's book! We

sincerely thank Sally for so generously sharing her time and experience with our students and hope that her positive outlook may continue to inspire them.

SUPPORT UNIT REPORT

This term has been a busy time for all our students but particularly our Year 12 students who are finalising their post-school plans and getting ready for the next exciting chapter of their lives. On Monday 23 September we held a special celebration assembly for our Year 12 Support Unit students and we extended an invitation to our families of Year 12 students to attend.

We were very fortunate to have access to the NSW Department of Education's STEMShare kit this term which allowed us to try our skills at building, engineering and coding. Students developed their understanding of mathematical concepts as they manipulated the bluebots to move and navigate a number of obstacles. They also had the opportunity to create simple logarithms to control the dashbots and make them move, sing, dance and even change colour. What a fantastic opportunity to experience some hands-on learning for both students and staff.

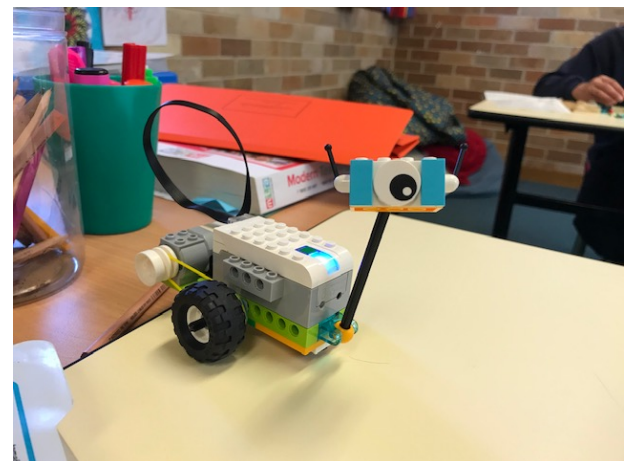
The Support Unit has continued with the Community Access Program this term, exposing and teaching students important skills to travel and navigate in the community with increasing confidence and independence. Our Stage 4 classes participated in a sponsored tennis coaching lesson and scaled great heights at Fairfield Adventure Park. Our Stage 6 students experienced the pitfalls of public transport when a major rail delay caused an early end to the day but their visit to the MonkeyBaa Theatre to experience a performance of Hitler's Daughter made up for the disappointment.

Our students have also been engaging in some important lessons around personal and sexual health as part of the PDHPE curriculum this term. Students have been exploring the importance of consent and using the mantra "my body my rules" as they discuss the significance of healthy, respectful relationships. I would encourage all families to continue these important conversations with their children and utilise the excellent resources available to families at the NSW Government's Family Planning website which can be found here:

<https://www.fpnsw.org.au/who-we-help/disability/disability-resources>

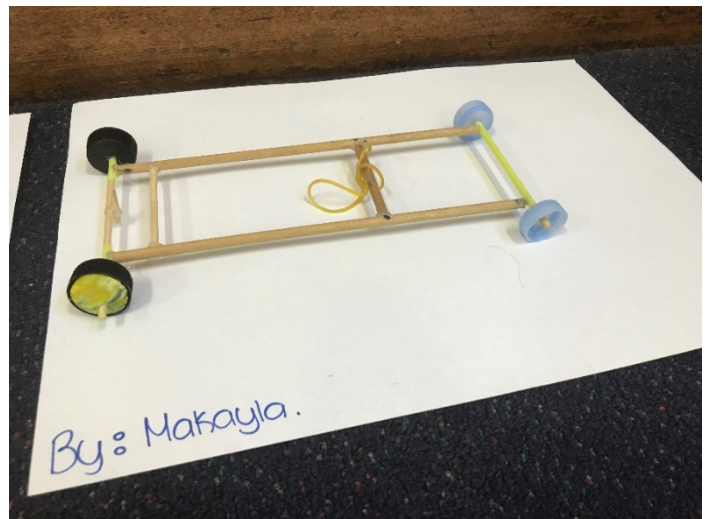
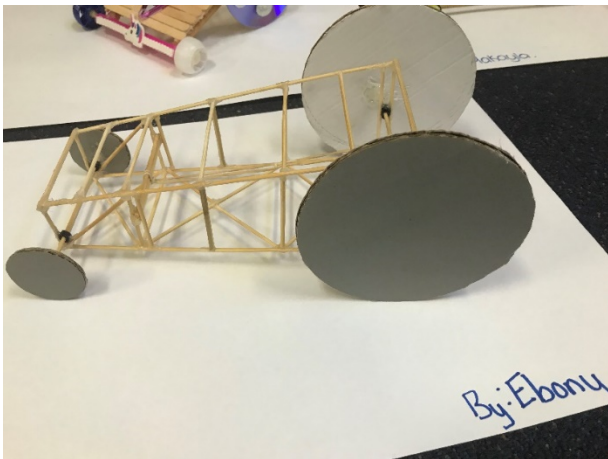
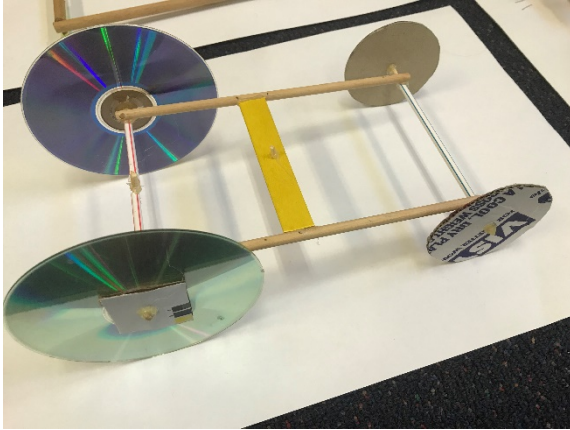
Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I let you know that this will be my last full term at James Meehan High School as I have accepted a new role with Oran Park High School. It is a very bittersweet experience for me and although I am excited by the challenge of establishing a brand new school, I am very sad to be moving on from the JMHS community. Please know that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with both students and their families and I take many, many happy memories and experiences with me. Parents can contact their key teacher for any further information until a Relieving Head Teacher is appointed. Thank you all for your support and cooperation, it has been much appreciated.

Mr K Andrews
HEAD TEACHER – SUPPORT UNIT

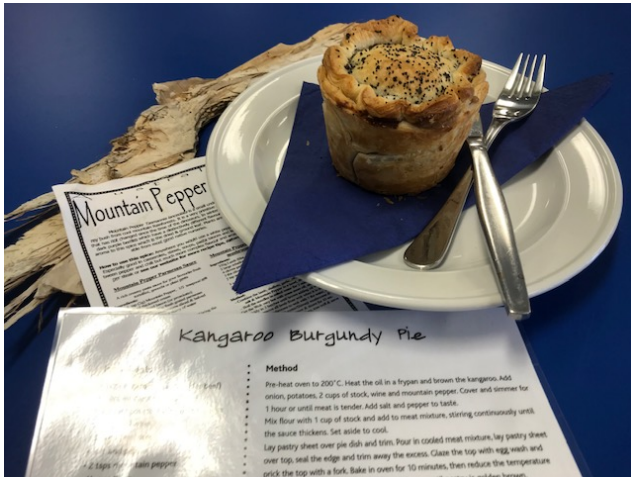


TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT

Stage 4 has finished their engineered systems design project and are starting on the next project based around Food and Agriculture. Here are some fantastic submissions of rubber band racers from 4S.



Stage 5: Year 9 Food Technology has been working on Food Product development in Term 2. Here they designed and produced a healthy muesli bar product. They also had to design the advertising campaign to sell their product. Now into Term 3 they have started the topic "Food in Australia". They have investigated native food and medicines used by the Aboriginal people. For the practical element, they prepared and cooked a kangaroo pie. In the next couple of weeks we will be having some local elders come into our practical lesson to talk about their knowledge of native food and prepare some pancakes using a native bush food.



Year 10 has been designing a celebration for the Food for Special Occasions unit. This accumulated in a Chinese New Year celebration where students had to cook and share their meals in a celebration style.



Stage 6: Year 11 has been working on preparing and serving non-alcoholic beverages. They have been making coffees, smoothies, frappes and milkshakes.



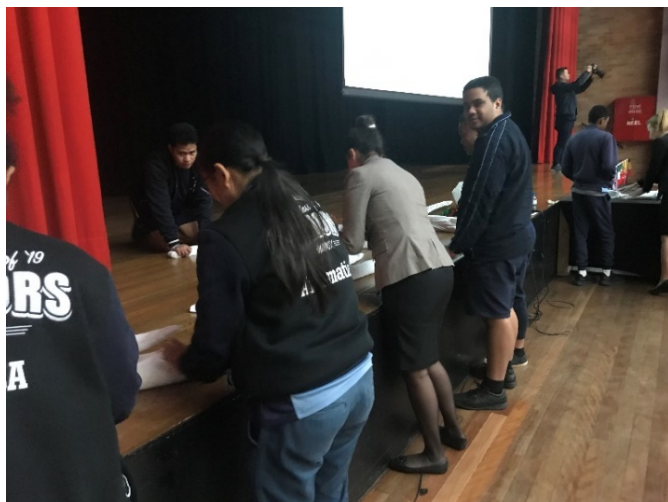
Year 12 has been finishing their course before they sit the Higher School Certificate and graduate. This means they are working hard to complete the competencies they are yet to gain in coffee making skills. They recently helped run the canteen, where they gained skills in a simulated workplace serving real customers. As Year 12 graduate, Mrs Rogers would like to congratulate them on their hard work in Hospitality over the last 2 years and wish them well. They will be missed.



Samiha and Ama attended the VET awards where they were nominated for their outstanding effort in Retail Services and Hospitality. Congratulations girls, we are so proud of your efforts.



After our visit to the Hilton West Hotel in Sydney, we were offered the opportunity for Hilton employees to visit our school and run some short workshops on interview skills, house keeping, pastry decorating and table setting. Thank you to The Smith Family Work Inspirations and The Hilton Hotel for this fantastic opportunity. Our students were thoroughly engaged and enjoyed the afternoon.



SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT

Wow! This term has been very busy.

Stage 4 and 5 students attended excursions to the Science Festival at the Australian Museum, as well as experiencing teacher demonstrations and first hand experiments in class. Students in each stage competed in a Kahoot Science Challenge and colouring-in competition.

Stage 5 students participated in a number of STEM-based investigations whilst investigating the concepts of heat, sound, light and waves. Students applied their mathematics skills in solving scientific problems in fun and challenging station-based activities, aimed at further developing their numeracy skills in using scientific notation when solving problems involving very large and very small numbers at the nano scale.

Stage 4 students explored the relationships between Earth, the moon and the sun and have been learning about Earth's resources and how they can be better managed to stop or prevent further damage to our planet.

Students from the Support Unit developed their practical skills in making careful observations and working safely in the Science laboratory with Ms Ram.

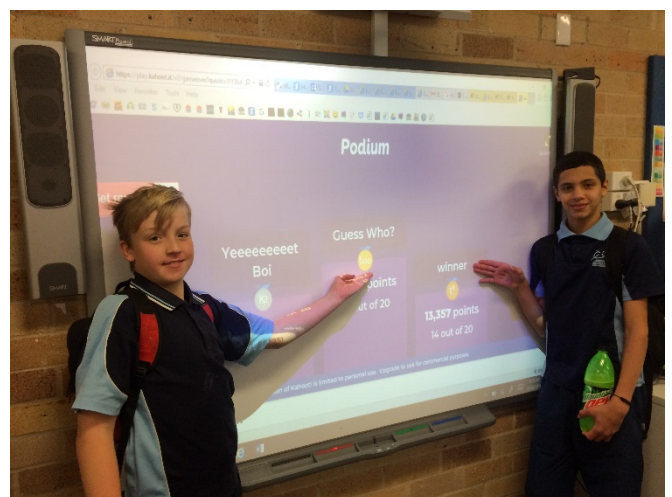
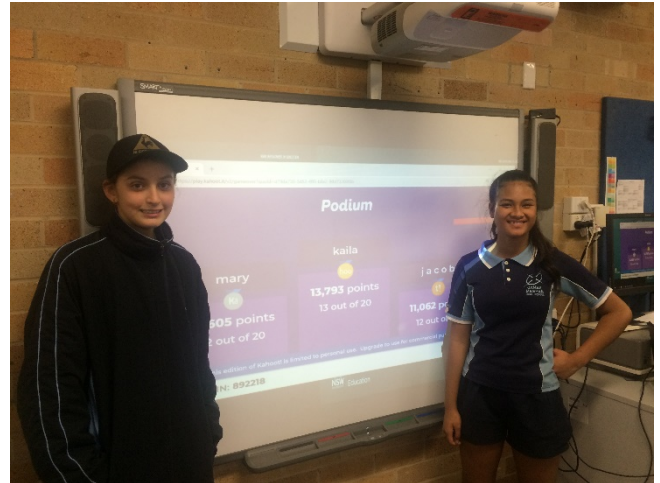
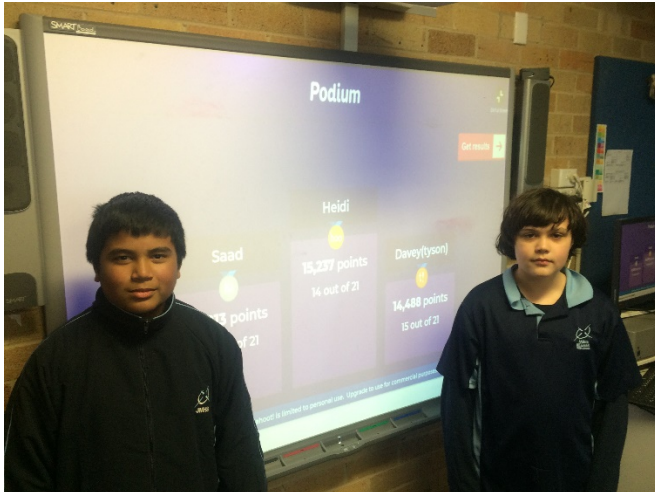
It was also pleasing to see a group of dedicated science students volunteering their Saturday morning to participate in the opening of the Simmo's Beach walking trails. Students of James Meehan High School worked with the Campbelltown Council Education Officer in naming and signage of the new trails, which were officially opened by our Deputy Mayor, Meg Oats. The walking trails are a valuable asset to the community, not only for leisurely walks but also for ensuring the sustainability of local flora and fauna. Students are excited at the opportunity of future field excursions at Simmo's Reserve.

Whilst we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break, we would like to encourage Year 12 students to ensure that they spend sufficient time preparing for their final HSC examinations and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

Year 8 students are also reminded that the state wide VALID Science assessment will be taking place during week 3 next term. Students are encouraged to revise all the topics completed in Year 7 & Year 8 (Stage 4), carefully before the assessment.

Study material will be available on google classroom, and in paper form for students who do not have access to the internet at home, for revision over the holidays.

Mr Lally, Ms Ram, Ms Kukec
SCIENCE FACULTY

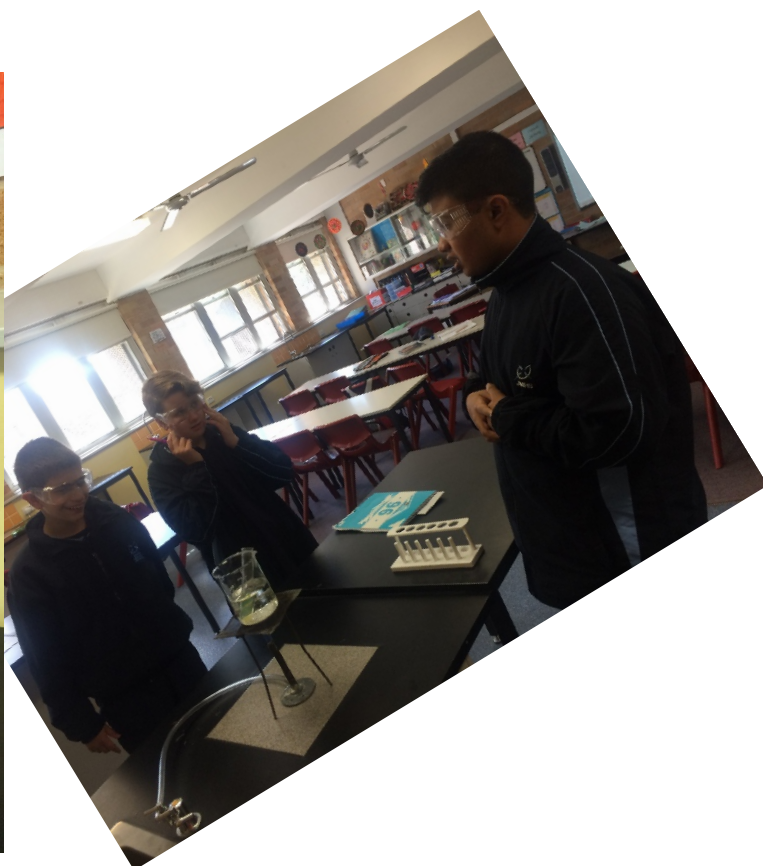
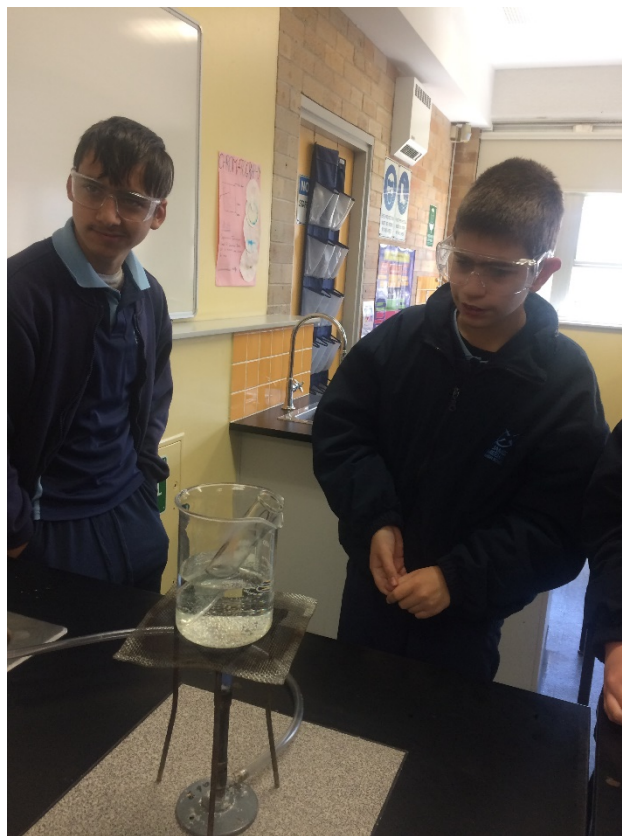
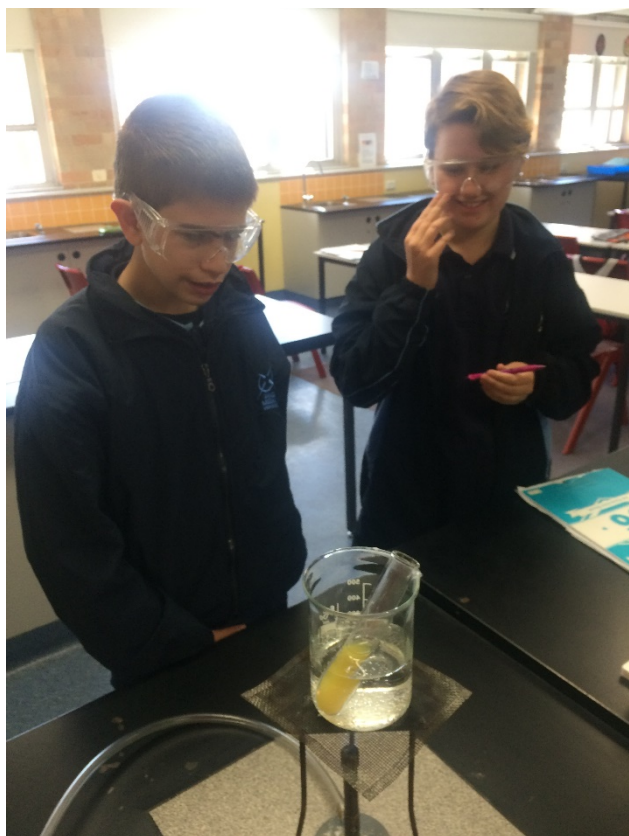


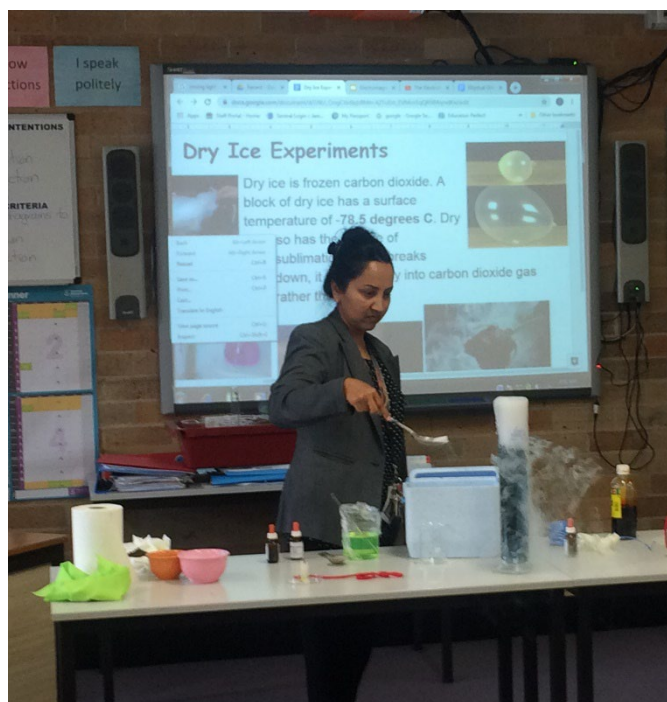
Kohoot Science Challenge



Simmo's Trail

Support Unit students attending Science lessons





Dry Ice Experiments



R U OK? DAY AT JMHS

R U OK?

On Thursday 12 September the staff at James Meehan High School celebrated RU OK? Day.

Ms Rogers and the Year 12 Hospitality students baked the little cupcakes which are seen in the picture attached and these were placed in the staff room for the staff to enjoy in the recess break.



The staff also received “Minties” throughout the day as another gesture of kindness and inclusion.

Many staff members wore the colour yellow to support the day.

We celebrated **R U OK? Day** with a range of activities designed to help students and staff meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with anyone who may be struggling with life.

If you feel like something's not quite the same with someone you know – there's something going on in their life or you notice a change in what they're doing or saying - trust that gut instinct and take the time to ask them “Are you OK?”

For more information or help on starting the conversation, visit <https://www.ruok.org.au/>





CAPA CORNER

CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS
ART MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

CC1.1 IN THE CLASSROOM:

Stage 4

Visual Arts

Students in year 7 and 8 finalised their canopic jars and added details of their native animal ready for drying and firing in the kiln. We are now starting our new unit focusing on colour and developing their painting techniques.

Music

Students are learning about music around the world. They have studied instruments and music from Latin America, Australian Aboriginal and much more.



Stage 5

Visual Arts

Students in year 9 and 10 have collaborated on an environmental artwork using found objects. They developed team working skills and strategies to use materials not conventionally used in artmaking.

Street art and stencil making is the next project. Students will research a famous Australian and create a multiple colour portrait constructed using stencils and spray paint.

Music

Students continued to develop their understanding of musical concepts and learned to compose their own songs based on a common theme. Students built their confidence to perform in front of others and give constructive feedback.



Stage 6

Congratulations to Yr12 Visual Arts and Drama students on completing the practical component of their HSC studies. The student's hard work throughout the year was reflected in some amazing works.

TO OUR GRADUATING YEAR 12 STUDENTS,

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

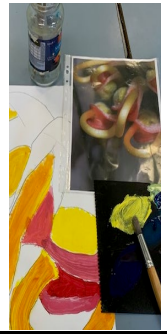
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

(Dr. Seuss)

Support

Visual Arts

Students this term have been developing their understanding of colour, shape and pattern in the natural environment. Through the investigation of artist Georgia O'Keeffe they have developed their macro photographs of the school gardens into large paintings, concentrating on blending and colour mixing.



CC1.2 EXCURSION AND EVENTS:

Multicultural Day 21st August 2019

On Wednesday 21st August we celebrated the cultural diversity of our school and community. It was a colourful day filled with widespread participation from staff, students and community members. Staff and students were involved in workshops, shared international food and the concert/fashion show was spectacular.

'I was so proud to represent my country (Philippines) and share its clothing and culture' Jenina, Year 11



CC1.3 STARS OF THE MONTH:

The CAPA Stars of the Month will be selected and announced by the CAPA staff on a monthly basis. It will be awarded to one student from each stage who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership qualities and exceeds expectations in our courses.

Stage 4

Tayah C for August

Stage 5

Jonathan N for August

Stage 6

Jenina O for August

CC1.4 UPCOMING EVENTS:

Halloween Fundraiser for Fusion '19



Thursday 31st October (Term 4, Week 3)

Following the success of last year's event we will be having a cake stall, dress ups, face painting and fun events on Halloween at school and Glenquarie Town Centre. Funds will go towards Fusion staging, props, costumes and administrative costs.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

Students Absent from School

Please note changes to School Attendance Policy. Where a student is absent from school, a note explaining the absence must be received by the school within 7 days. Where a note is not received the absence will be recorded as unjustified. This cannot legally be changed should a note be received after 7 days. Absences, both justified and unjustified, are recorded on school reports.

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 primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

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

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

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 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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