Principal’s Report

After a very productive and enjoyable term 1 – we welcome everyone to the start of another busy and enjoyable term of high quality learning opportunities for our students provided by our dedicated members of staff. As part of our commitment to the professional development of our staff, all teaching and non-teaching staff is encouraged to articulate and formulate plans for professional learning and career development. Our school development day, held on Monday 23rd April, focused on staff professional learning in the areas of: the latest updates on the management of asthma; strategies on boys’ education; classroom assessment and teacher reporting.

In staffing news, Mr Scott Grose from the English faculty was successful in gaining a promotion on merit to the position of Head Teacher English at Endeavour Sports High school. The entire school community would like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions Mr Grose has made to the students, his colleagues and the entire school over the last 8 years. A merit selection panel has been convened to advertise the position and appoint a replacement English teacher for our school. Our school has officially formalised the School Management Plan 2012 – 2014. Executive teachers have commenced with the implementation of key strategies in the priority focus areas of: literacy & numeracy; student attainment / engagement and management; curriculum & assessment; teacher quality and Information Communication Technologies. The focus continues to be on responding to the individual needs of our students as learners, providing all teachers with opportunities to continually enhance their classroom practices and strengthening partnerships between school and families.

Also, the 2011 Annual School Report is available for everyone on the school website. This document highlights the school’s achievements throughout the 2011 academic year. It also analyses the school’s academic results and outlines the targets set for 2012. If any parent would like a hardcopy of the report – please contact the school.

There were numerous activities throughout the term that supplemented the classroom learning for students. Undoubtedly, the highlight would have been our celebration of Harmony Day on Friday 23rd March 2012. Our school community united in a celebration of Australia’s many different traditions and cultures. We recognised harmony amongst genders, communities, peers, cultures and religions. Also, we raised money for charity and held a Talent Quest assembly that showcased the many talents of our students in the performing arts. The entire day provided opportunities for our students to embrace the many things that make them special and to share those things they have in common. The day’s theme - “Team Sport: Play, Engage, Inspire” – is always reflected within our school. Through involvement in sport whether as a participant, volunteer or spectator, students of all ages and cultures come together. The sense of belonging, acceptance and understanding of others is always promoted. Also, we would like to take this opportunity and thank our special guest speaker, Mr Jeff Hardy, for taking the time from his busy work schedule to address our school community during the celebration assembly. Mr Jeff Hardy is a former “old boy” of the school (1984) who played over 240 games for St George in the NRL, graduated as a PDHPE teacher and works tirelessly implementing programs to help Indigenous youth. He is a truly inspirational role model for our students. Finally, the entire school would like to thank Ms Lee and Mr Chung for their efforts in organising the day and our excellent student leaders.

All students must continue to engage in their classroom learning and focus on “doing their personal best” at all times. Formative classroom assessments occur at all times – both formally and informally. Students must listen and act upon the advice and feedback given to them by their teachers. The role of the teacher is to teach, guide, advise, support and monitor the learning of all students. All students must continue to work with their teachers at all times. There is an online Study Skills program available for all students in years 9 – 12 to access using their DER laptops. Study Skills days have been organised for year 11 ( Monday 26th March) and for year 12 (on Monday 28th May). Homework helps to reinforce and further expand on the concepts explored within the classroom. Being organised, relaxed and utilising good time management assists in making homework less stressful for the whole family. For a variety of great tips on creating success with homework – please visit the website: School A to Z


In conclusion, our P&C meeting will be held in the staff common-room (A block) on Monday 21st May at 6:30 pm. All parents are invited and we look forward to meeting everyone and discussing school matters.

Terry Vallis - Principal
Term 2 is upon us and as always during this period, the pace picks up with exams and report writing. All our year groups have scheduled exam/assessment blocks and will be assessed on the areas of study they have been taught so far this year.

Parents will receive their son’s report at the end of term and will have the opportunity to meet with the staff and closely discuss the progress of their child at the parent-Teacher night on Tuesday 26 June between 4-7pm. Your son will be bringing home information about the evening and a booking sheet closer to the date. On the same evening, from 7-8pm, year 10 parents will be invited to attend a Subject Selection session where Board of Studies and TAFE personnel will be here to discuss options that will help you and your son make the appropriate course selection for his senior years of high school.

Our year 7 and 9 cohorts will be participating in the NAPLAN tests over three days 15-17 May with an additional day, the 18th May, being a catch up day for any of our boys who are unable to attend on the scheduled days. This testing period is not meant to be daunting and we have devised a schedule that will allow our boys adequate breaks between tests. We encourage parents to speak to their son about the test and as always, all we can ask is that they apply themselves with diligence and do their best.

As the weather becomes cooler and we enter the winter months I ask that families ensure their son is well prepared with the correct uniform. We are a uniform wearing school and have a newly designed jumper in the school colours which will be the only acceptable jumper during the cold season. We ask for parent support in this matter as having our boys in correct school uniform is one means of developing an identity and pride in themselves and the school. If, on the odd occasion, your son is unable to be in school uniform, please provide him with a note and he will be given a uniform pass for the day. Not having a note will require your son to complete a Tuesday afternoon detention.

Truancy is an issue that we are working on diminishing throughout the school. It is imperative that students understand that missing lessons will severely hinder their progress and affect their standing in their classes. Parents are notified if their son truants by means of a letter and we seek parent assistance in discussing this issue with your son and helping him realise the importance of attending all lessons. Boys have also started to take it upon themselves to leave the school grounds during breaks, and in the case of seniors, during study periods. This is not acceptable school policy and makes it impossible for staff to carry out their duty of care if students have either truanted class or left the school grounds altogether. Please make a point of speaking to your son about these important issues that hinder the processes within the school.

Our strong relationship with the St. George Special School continues and recently we had two of our boys, Mohammed Abbas from Year 8 and Joshua Jordan form Year 7, spend a few days assisting the staff of the Special School with the musical development of their students. Ms Diana Murphy, the Principal of the Special School, reported the magnificent work ethic and compassion displayed by both our boys during their time there and we are proud at the selfless attitude and empathy they exhibited as representatives of our school. Congratulations Mohammed and Joshua!!

As I walk around the school and speak with our students on a variety of matters, I continue to be amazed by their good hearted nature and sense of humour. We truly do have a community of boys of whom I am proud and who I am sure will achieve great things during their time here and as they move into the workforce.

If you require further information on any matter please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Vicky Manos
2012 Prefects

In Term 4, 2011, the following Year 12 students were elected as prefects by the Year 12 students and teachers at James Cook Boys’ Technology High School.


Of the above students, Aaron Bartlett and Kerem Dormanli were elected as School Captains and Fares Fares and Ali El Husseini elected as School Vice Captains.

In Term 1, 2012, the following Year 11 students were elected as Prefects by Year 11 students and teachers at James Cook Boys’ Technology High School.

Mehdy Diab, Nathan Damcevski, Matthew Ng, Alexander Kadinski, Jamie Kantarovski, Shubhamkumar Prajapati

2012 Student Representative Council (SRC)

Elections were also held for Year 9 and Year 10 Student Representative Council members. The following students were elected as SRC representatives.

Year 9 – Hassan Khamis   Shivam Prajapati
Year 10 - Tom Tomasi   Mohammed Ali

In Term 1, School Captains, Aaron Bartlett and Kerem Dormanli, have worked closely with the Principal, Mr Vallis, and Deputy Principal, Ms Manos, in visiting local public schools and promoting James Cook Boys’ Technology High School to Primary School students.

The Prefects and SRC representatives supported Ms Lee, and helped to organise the barbeque, collection of donations and administration of the concert on Harmony Day. This made Harmony Day an extremely successful day for students and staff of James Cook Boys’ Technology High School.

At the start of Term 2, Year 11 Prefects assisted in the school ANZAC Day assembly to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian soldiers at Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915 and in the battles in France and the Middle East during World War One. Mehdy Diab and Jamie Kantarovski made speeches, Nathan Damcevski and Shubhamkumar Prajapati arranged the appropriate music and Matthew Ng and Alex Kadinski assisted with the flag raising ceremony.

In June, Prefects and SRC representatives will be given opportunities to participate in student leadership activities organised by World Vision and other community organisations, assist in organising the World Vision 24 hour Famine and develop initiatives to make James Cook Boys’ Technology High School a more pleasant place for students, staff and members of the local community.

Thanks to all Prefects and SRC representatives for their contributions to the school community.

Mr Chung
Prefect/SRC coordinator

SCHOOL CAPTAINS FOR 2012
Kerem Dormanli
Aaron Bartlett

VICE CAPTAINS FOR 2012
Ali El Husseini
Fares Fares

Upcoming Events

Year 11 Exams—Monday 30th April to Friday 11th May
NAPLAN—Tuesday 15th to Friday 17th May
P & C Meeting—21st May—6pm in the Common Room—all are invited
Year 10 Assessment Week—21st May to 25th May
Years 8 and 9 Assessment Week—28th May to 1st June
Year 7 Assessment Week—4th June to 8th June
Public Holiday—Monday 11th June
Athletics Carnival—14th June—Sylvania Athletics Track—All students are to attend
Parent / Teacher Night—26th June—4pm to 7pm
Year 10 Subject Selection Night—26th June 7pm to 8pm
P & C Meeting—25th June—6pm in the Common Room—all are invited
Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Faculty Report

Term 1 has once again been a very active time for the students studying in this faculty area. Most of the boys have settled into their studies quite well, with Year 7 and Year 9 showing the highest levels of commitment. The Year 12s have continued with their motivated and focused approach to the subjects of Industrial Technology Timber and Engineering Studies.

A small group of Year 11 students put on a demonstration of timber machining for prospective 2013 Year 7 parents at the school’s Open Night, which helped to showcase some of the technology equipment that James Cook possesses. Likewise these students, and some Year 8 boys, are constructing a large set of musical wind chimes for St George Special School. This will involve placing the wind chimes in their Tranquillity Garden. (see photo)

As was the case last year some of the Faculty’s Year 12 students continue to give assistance to Brighton-le-Sands Public School in school yard construction projects, which is helping to bond the two schools closer together.

For the delivery of Year 12 VET Construction subject, this has been transferred to Gymea TAFE for a once a week delivery. The students are benefiting from the ex-trade subject matter experts at the TAFE college.

Unfortunately some students are having difficulties in consistently arriving to their TAS classes prepared with the correct and necessary footwear, as per the DEC and WHS requirements. These students are not able to participate in practical work and are therefore not making the expected progress in their subject. Hopefully these students will show some self-organisational improvement in Term 2.

For those students who are attempting to do their best, Term 2 will be just as busy and will have the added highlight of the issuing of the Half Yearly Reports.

D Clark
Head Teacher TAS

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Eftpos Machine

The school will have an EFTPOS machine installed into the Fees Office by the end of May.

Parents and students will now be able to pay for excursions and school fees by debit or credit card. When the school fees are sent home there is an Credit Card Authority sheet to authorize credit card payments to the school, which you can fill out, sign, and send back to school with your son.

A reminder that school fees need to be finalized by the end of May please.

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Staff Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ADVISORS</th>
<th>YEAR 7 - Ms E Neyland</th>
<th>YEAR 8 - Mr G Errington</th>
<th>YEAR 9 - Ms H Cork</th>
<th>YEAR 10 - Ms D Rees</th>
<th>YEAR 11 - Ms M Loutfy</th>
<th>YEAR 12 - Ms M Lagoudakis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEAD TEACHERS</td>
<td>WELFARE - Mr S Tsaridis</td>
<td>ENGLISH - Ms M Rix</td>
<td>SCIENCE - Mr P Loucopoulos</td>
<td>MATHEMATICS - Mr R Mansour</td>
<td>VISUAL ARTS - Ms L Rae</td>
<td>INDUSTRIAL ARTS - Mr D Clark</td>
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<td>H.S.I.E. - Ms M Atzemis</td>
<td>SPECIAL EDUCATION - Ms F Sutton</td>
<td>CAREERS ADVISOR - Mr H Forrester</td>
<td>SCHOOL COUNSELLOR - Mr N Gardner</td>
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School Term Dates for 2012

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Monday 11th June</td>
<td>- Queens Birthday (public hol.)</td>
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<td>Friday 29th June</td>
<td>- Last day for Term 2</td>
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<td>Monday 16th July</td>
<td>- School resumes for Term 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 17th July</td>
<td>- Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Friday 21st September</td>
<td>- STUDENTS RETURN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday 8th October</td>
<td>- School resumes for Term 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 19th December</td>
<td>- All Students and Staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday 20th December and Friday 21st December</td>
<td>- LAST DAY OF TERM 4 FOR STUDENTS</td>
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<td>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS</td>
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WELFARE REPORT

This term on the Welfare front will be very busy. The Welfare team will be working hard to motivate and encourage our student body and it is hoped positive outcomes will be achieved, not only academically but also from a personal growth perspective.

Last term saw the implementation of our "Bravehearts" program, a program aimed at raising awareness and dealing with the issue of bullying. This Anti-Bullying program involved the whole school over 4 periods with many positive views being expressed on its completion. A number of ideas were also canvassed in an evaluation that was circulated and these ideas will be closely looked at, so as to improve the programs delivery.

To reinforce the message spread by the 'Bravehearts' program, during Term 2, the school hopes to present workshops on the dangers and pitfalls of Cyberbullying that will be shown to all year groups.

The very popular Rock and Water program returns this term with a focus on our Pacific Islander cohort. Last year, the Rock and Water program proved a great hit with the boys who participated and this term, John Dangas, Team Leader at St. George Youth Services, will accompany me in delivering the program, here within the school.

Another program that is new to the school will also take place during Term 2. Delivered at the offices of St. George Youth Services and co-ordinated by John Dangas, The Muslim Youth Program will involve up to 3 selected students who will undergo intensive discussion workshops with the Police from the Local Area Command and invited guests. This program will cover the forming of positive relationships between the Police and youth from an Arabic background through specifically tailored workshops. The Program has been a major success winning a Premier’s Award due to its message and implementation.

Luke Chesworth from MTC Work Solutions will again offer his expertise and services when he organises one to one meetings with students who may feel a disengagement in the learning. Luke will be touching base with selected students here on school grounds, working through strategies and encouraging positive results.

As you can read, a busy term awaits. Off we go.

Steve Tsaridis

COMPUTING NEWS

On April 3, twenty students attended a Game Design Boot Camp at the Macquarie ICT Centre at Macquarie University. Our students learnt the principals of game design, reviewed an alternator game and used Microsoft Kodu Gamelab to help them prototype a quality video game. The game design industry employs people from a wide variety of fields including technicians, designers, artists, journalist and historians. Many universities are now offering tertiary courses in this emerging field of employment. Next term the game design club will participate in a video conference session with some real-life game designers who will hopefully offer some advice to help improve our students’ game design projects.

Any student interested in forming a team for the Young ICT Explorers competition should contact Ms Neyland before the 25th of May. Students who enter will use their creativity to produce an Information and Communication Technology related project.

For more information visit the website http://www.youngictexplorers.net.au/

Also a reminder that the computer room is open every Thursday lunch for the game design and robotics clubs. New members are welcome.

Ms Neyland

HOMEWORK CLUB
MONDAY AFTERNOON
3pm to 4.30 pm
IN THE LIBRARY—ALL WELCOME
Year 9 Report

Year 9 have had a very productive and exciting Term 1 and I would like to start by congratulating all students who received Merit Awards in Week 1 for their hard work and commitment to learning throughout the previous term.

The students receiving awards were nominated by their classroom teachers in recognition of their drive for academic success, their commitment to learning and for citizenship and service to the James Cook Boys’ school community. As a Student Advisor it was most pleasing to see significant improvements from Year 8 in some students’ attitude to learning and I would like to encourage those students to continue this positive attitude throughout the remainder of the year. For those students who did not receive awards at the merit assembly, please use this as motivation to make the changes necessary for you to reach your potential in class and receive recognition for your hard work in your upcoming half yearly reports and our next merit assembly.

I would also like to make special mention of the two students who were elected by their peers to act as the Year 9 voices on the Student Representative Council for 2012. My congratulations is extended to both Shivam Prajapati and Hassan Khamis as I believe that both of these gentlemen have the leadership qualities, positive attitude and support of their peers, to make a genuine difference on our school’s SRC.

This term Year 9 will be sitting the NAPLAN examinations and they are encouraged to implement the study skill they have developed during DEAR, in their preparation for these exams. Throughout DEAR in Term 1, Year 9 have been using their laptops to access an online study skills handbook through a school wide subscription to this valuable resource. This handbook uses multimedia applications to educate the students on study habits, organisational skills and the most appropriate ways to prepare for assignments and exams. I would encourage all students to continue accessing the online study skills handbook, both in DEAR and at home, as it is a very useful tool that could make a genuine difference in their results.

While Year 9 have been enjoying the use of their new laptops, I must again remind the students that they are expected to bring their laptops to school, fully charged, every day. They are also reminded to ensure that they have suitable writing materials and subject work books for all classes. Preparation and organisation is one of the key contributors to success and I hope that all students in Year 9 achieve some level of personal success, whether it be in the classroom or on the sporting field, this term. Good luck and work hard, as the effort you all put in now, will pay off in the years ahead.

Ms Cork

Creative Arts

A new exhibition of paintings in watercolour and oils by Year 10 Visual Art students explores different views of Botany Bay. This is currently on display in A Block Gallery as well as on the School web site. Follow the links from curriculum to Creative Arts and then to the Gallery site.

Upcoming events

There are a limited number of tickets available for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday 24th July. This is an excursion for Year 7 to compliment their study of the orchestra.

Also in Term 3 Year 12 Music and Visual Art will have a performance evening.

In week 8 Term 3 we are planning a Musical performance. Students interested in performing in the performance or working behind the scenes for this production should see Mrs Rae for more details.

Times and dates will be advertised toward the end of Term 2.

STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

From the start of Term 2 ALL students arriving late to school—including Year 12 students with a permitted late arrival are required to sign in at the Fees Office.

Students who do not sign in are marked as absent for the day and parents are sent an SMS message regarding their son’s absence.

Employers require employees to be on time for work.

We too, require our students to be on time for ‘work’.

Our school day begins with roll call at 8.45am

Your assistance is sought to ensure that your son is at school in time to attend roll call.

Students who are late are required to bring an explanatory note to the Fees Office.

Thank you for your assistance
CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying is one of the biggest safety issues facing young people today

Bullying and harassment online is now commonplace. For instance, over a third of teenage girls have been sexually harassed via the Internet and 2 in five have been asked to post naked pictures of themselves online.

The emergence of social media sites has seen cyber bullying go to a new level. Messages and images can now spread like wildfire reaching a huge potential audience in the time it takes to upload an image or shoot off a text message.

Once the family home offered young people an escape from schoolyard bullies. Now the cyber world is so invasive that their bedrooms offer no guarantees of safety any more.

The cyber world is enticing. Young people have always wanted to escape from their parents' world. In the past they hung out in shopping centres and pool halls. Parents tried their best to keep an eye on where their children were and what they were doing.

The online world is now the shopping mall of the 21st Century. Parents have the same responsibility to help kids stay safe in the online world as they do in the real world. ‘Stranger danger’ and accompanying safe behaviours are just as relevant in the online world as they are in the real world.

Here are some ideas:

**Use the same offline preventative strategies to maximise their children's online safety as you already use offline. These strategies include:**
- letting children about the right way to behave online;
- don’t let them spend all night in the cyber world;
- and ask questions about what they are doing and where they go when they're online.

**Remind kids that things in the online world can spin out of control very quickly.** A written message or an image can be circulated electronically so rapidly that the scope and scale of cyber bullying can be greater than any other form of bullying.

The following seven key messages form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids. They should be taught to kids so they become second nature, just as the messages about stranger danger were absorbed by an earlier generation.

1. **Respect others.** Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss with kids the types of messages and images that can cause harm to others when sent. Teenagers often walk a fine line with what they do and say to each other offline, yet it's relatively harmless. The same type of behaviour online however can be a different story.

2. **Think before you send.** Remind kids cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. A text message or image sent to just one person can pass to a potentially unlimited number. Once they are sent they almost impossible to erase and take back.

3. **Treat online passwords like your house key.** Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However there are some things, such as online passwords that they don’t share, not even with their best friend.

4. **Block bullies.** Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages and addresses online. Similarly, they can block text messages from bullies as well.

5. **Don't reply to harassment.** Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides responding to bullying behaviour often simply encourages the bully to continue.

6. **Save the evidence.** If kids are bullied they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as proof if the bullies are brought to justice.

7. **Tell someone.** The insidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don't seek help, as they think there's something wrong with them. Talk with kids about going to a trusted adult, when they feel their rights or safety have been violated. They should with your help report online bullying to the appropriate service provider.

This information comes from the website – Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose, Australia’s No 1 Parenting Educator
Term 1, 2012 has been busy and challenging but also a rewarding and successful term for our Year 11 Senior students. At the beginning of Term 1, students were issued with a Preliminary HSC Assessment Handbook outlining how they will be assessed for all their subjects in Year 11 from Term 1 until the end of Term 3. In Term 4 Year 11 students will commence their Year 12 HSC course.

There have been many highlights and successes in Term 1 and these come as a result of students being actively involved, not only in their day to day learning activities, but also in the intracurricular activities at school. Some of these activities included a successful study skills day. On this day interesting and stimulating seminars were presented by a professional organization as well as by some of our dedicated staff, Ms Rix, Mrs Rees, Mr Loucopoulos, and Mr Tsaridis. The seminars covered how to study effectively, how to balance good diet, how to take steps to maintain good mental wellbeing and good nutrition, how the brain works and how to overcome exam anxiety. Students’ evaluation forms showed that the day enhanced their self-confidence, taught them better time management and helped them gaining new techniques to improve their senior studies.

Students also participated in the “Brave Heart” bullying program which equipped them with strategies to deal with antisocial behaviour outside and inside the school. They also took part in the Harmony Day where students at James Cook Boys High School celebrated the cohesive and inclusive nature of Australia and promoted Multiculturalism in our school and community. I would like to commend on the efforts of Nathan Damcevski who represented the school in the swimming zone competition at Bexley Pool. Mario Mitrov, Mohammed Fares, Jamie Stojanovski, Hussein Dakdouk, Alex Kadinski, Saleh Abdelazin and Riyad Shah also need recognition for their commitments in the soccer cup football. Fillip Tipevski should be recognized for his fine efforts in the International soccer camp in Macedonia early in Term 1.

I would like to congratulate our new Year 11 elected prefects: Jamie Kantarovski, Mehdi Diab, Nathan Damcevski, Alexandar Kadinski, Matthew Ng and Shubhamkumr Prajapati. These students will represent the SRC students’ body in expressing ideas in making the school a better place for both students and staff as well as representing the school at formal meetings.

A few reminders for our Year 11 students:
♦ Absence notes/medical certificates are required for days absent so their attendance percentage is not affected
♦ School uniform must be worn correctly at all times (including ties and correct school shoes) to and from school
♦ Assessment tasks and homework are expected to be completed by the due date
♦ Homework club will run on Mondays from 3.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. in the Library
♦ Punctuality is very essential. Students should be present when school commences at 8.45 a.m.

Term 2 will be busy again, with teachers writing semester reports at end of term, and I would encourage all our students to take their learning seriously and to take advantage of all learning opportunities that come their way. Good luck to all our Year 11 senior students.

Ms Loutfy
Year 11 Adviser
LET'S FOCUS ON ATTENDANCE

Did you know that if your son has 5 days away from school per term, it adds up to 20 days over the course of the school year? This may be an obvious fact, but when you consider that 20 days leave is far greater than the average paid sick leave in NSW, it seems we may have an issue.

At James Cook Boys’ we pride ourselves on our effort to prepare young men for the realities of the workforce. In doing so we aim to instill good attendance practices that will be held in good light when our students seek employment in the future.

For the past 12 months we have been regularly acknowledging those students who have demonstrated a commitment to learning through their outstanding attendance records. Twice per term those students who have gained 100% attendance have received a special attendance award where they are acknowledged and celebrated for their excellent record. You will see a list of the most recent attendance award recipients below.

While the list of students receiving these awards is increasing term by term, we would like to encourage all students to make school attendance an area of focus over the remainder of the school year. Being present at school every day of the year not only demonstrates reliability and commitment as a student and future employee, but it also increases the number of learning opportunities that your son is exposed to every day in the classroom.

In saying this, we do understand that at times your son may be late to school or unable to attend school because of illness or extreme circumstances. To ensure that your son’s absence is recorded as justified please respond to the daily SMS notification with a note/medical certificate. If the absence is recorded as unexplained, you will be contacted by the school to arrange a meeting with a school representative.

It is required by law that every student under the age of 17 must maintain an attendance record of 85% or above. With continued recognition for excellent school attendance and the ongoing support of our parents and school community, we hope to see an increase in the number of students receiving awards for outstanding school attendance in our next mid term presentation.

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<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
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<th>Year 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed Al Gharib</td>
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<td>Christian Jovanovski</td>
<td>Sergey Litvinov</td>
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<td>Supreme Rawal</td>
<td>Jonathan Stojanovski</td>
<td>Hassan Khamis</td>
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<td>Hadi Taoube</td>
<td>William Tao</td>
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<td>Claren Ye</td>
<td>Daniel Thompson</td>
<td>Kordell Lyon</td>
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<td>Jawad Saadi</td>
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<th>Year 11</th>
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<td>Saleh Abdelaziz</td>
<td>Terry Lin</td>
<td>Aaron Bartlett</td>
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<td>Efas Chowdhury</td>
<td>Alex Mitkovski</td>
<td>Raegan Canaria</td>
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<td>Nathan Damcevski</td>
<td>Farriz Mohamed</td>
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<td>Tam Du</td>
<td>Matthew Yu Mohamed</td>
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<td>Mehdi El-Hage</td>
<td>Hin Sawal</td>
<td>James Doran</td>
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<td>Mohamad Fakh</td>
<td>Manuera Phillips</td>
<td>Kerem Dormanli</td>
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<td>Luke Felton</td>
<td>Shubhamkumar Prajapati</td>
<td>Rafik Elmasri</td>
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<td>Steven Gullo</td>
<td>Hasan Rahman</td>
<td>Fares Fares</td>
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<td>Barron Hawe De-Thierry</td>
<td>Shuai Shao</td>
<td>Zac Fares</td>
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<td>Godwin Huang</td>
<td>Edwin Singh</td>
<td>Peter Havansky</td>
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<td>Mustapha Kababian</td>
<td>Kevin Su</td>
<td>Ali Issaoui</td>
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<td>Alexandar Kadinski</td>
<td>Konstantin Tasevski</td>
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<td>Yoo Jin Kang</td>
<td>Nick Wang</td>
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Harmony Day was celebrated at James Cook Boys Technology High School on Friday 23 March whereby students from a wide range of backgrounds celebrated the cultural diversity within Australia. The theme of this year’s Harmony Day was to unite students of all ages and walks of life through playing, engaging and inspiring.

The focus of this exciting day was to raise money for charity and students scholarships by organising a Talent Quest which was attended by the whole school. The students who participated in the Talent Quest had a few weeks during which to prepare their performance item for the school. It was most impressive watching students from years 7 to 12 sing, play musical instruments and dance before such a large audience and display such a strong commitment to achieving their best.

All students who performed on the day were congratulated and received a prize for their effort. Special attention must be awarded to the following students who received a special prize:

Thor Gonzales (Year 8) for his vocal and guitar piece
Shawn Piho (Year 12) for his performance and excellent work as master of ceremonies
Ben Tavina (Year 12) for his performance and support of junior students
Diego Mazon (Year 12) for his performance and support of Year 10 students
Tyrone Tiedeman (Year 9) for his performance and support of students

Our school’s Ms James, the wonderful prefects and the SRC must be congratulated for their efforts in supporting the occasion with collecting money for the concert during the morning’s assembly; helping with the barbecue and supporting Ms Lee, Ms Papanikalaou and Ms Dauter with the food stall during recess and lunch.

Mr Long, the school’s general assistant, must be thanked for his time and effort in setting up the school hall for the performance and also setting up the barbeque in the school’s canteen. The barbeque was appreciated by everyone and our helpers successfully sold all the food that was bought for the day.

We would also like to express our grateful thanks to the very kind parents and teachers who donated food that was sold for charity.

Students from St George Special School were assisted in reaching our school in time for the concert by our SRC, Ms Rae and a number of volunteer students from our school transporting them in their wheelchairs to our school hall. We have established strong ties to St George Special School over the years and always invite their students to attend our concerts and functions whenever possible.

We would also like to forward a special thanks to the parents and visitors who attended our Harmony Day and look forward to the event next year when we hope to present another Talent Quest.

Ms Maxine Lee
Music Department
Harmony Day co-ordinator

**LUNCHBOX INSPIRATION**

It’s easy to fall back on the same tired and tested school lunches, but why not try something new, tasty, easy and healthy? Quick and scrumptious school lunchbox ideas are available at School A to Z
and the Heart Foundation
www.heartfoundation.org.au/recipes which also offers a wealth of information about maintaining a healthy body weight and, of course, heart health

**DONATIONS OF UNWANTED UNIFORMS**

If your son has outgrown some of his uniform please consider donating his uniform items to the school. For example—shirts, jackets, sports tops etc
Sometimes we have a student in need of assistance so donating uniform to the school enables us to provide them with the items they require.
Your items may be dropped off at the Front Office and should be clean and in good condition. Thank you.

**HOMEWORK AND STUDY TIPS**

Homework helps distil and expand on concepts learned in the classroom. Relaxing, getting organised and using good time management are all ways to help make homework less of a stress for the whole family.

For a host of great tips that will have your teen blitzing their homework, see the School A to Z homework tips under the homework and study link:

Some of the articles listed with lots of helpful information are:

Helping your teen study for an exam - Copycats beware - Facts about tutors - Ten tips for writing an essay - Preparing for the HSC - School exam stress busters - Ten tips to help boys succeed at school - Practical ideas for high school study plus many more interesting articles.
A group of twenty Year 7 students had an amazing time on Year 7 camp at Tea Gardens in week 7. The boys' confidence increased as they abseiled, kayaked, rock-climbed, did high ropes activities and played commando. An excellent time was had by all.

The "Big fish into little fish" workshop and welcome BBQ went well on the 23rd of February and thank you to the Year 10 peer support leaders who helped on the day. The Year 10 peer support leaders have been very effective in assisting the Year 7s with their transition to high school. They will be helping to run a Year 7 competition for handball, mini soccer and touch football in Term 2.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Open Night on April 2 to meet the teachers and view work samples. There was also a Cybersmart presentation on that night, which offered many tips on cyber safety.

There are more tips available at http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

Overall the Year 7 cohort have made a very promising start to their high school career. The Year 7 group, including the boys who received merit certificates at the merit assembly on April 2 - should be congratulated for their efforts.

Ms Neyland
Year 7 Advisor
FREE! Parenting Teenagers Support group

Facing difficulties in parenting teenagers?
Meet others in a similar situation and discuss -
✓ Adolescent development
✓ Coping strategies and crisis skills (Limited spaces!)
✓ Setting boundaries and limits
✓ Communication and active listening
✓ Assertiveness and conflict resolution
✓ Self care .... and more with a qualified psychologist

Group meetings to be at: Lv3, Corner Moate Ave. & Princess St. Brighton-le-Sands

Starting
7th May 2012
10.30am-12noon
Duration:
6 weeks on Mondays

For bookings phone
Paul
9556 1769 or email
project@stgeorgeyouth.org

REGISTRATION FOR
PARENTING TEENAGERS SUPPORT GROUP

First name: ___________________________

Family name: ___________________________

Address: ______________________________

Home phone: ___________ Mobile: ___________

Age of children in the family: ___________________________

Send this form to:
St George Youth Services-Reconnect Youth and Family Service
PO Box 659 Rockdale 2216 OR By Fax. 95562679 OR Email details to
project@stgeorgeyouth.org
Information for Parents and Students:

www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

Great news! Our school has subscribed to the ELES Online Study Skills Handbook.

The ELES Online Study Skills Handbook provides a comprehensive and interactive online guide for the school community (students, parents and teachers) as to the study skills needed for success in high school studies. This approach taps into students’ affinity with technology to create a new and effective way to improve students’ study skills.

This is a great online resource for parents and students to address all their study skills issues and concerns and enable students to learn new ways to improve their results at school. The handbook has a huge amount of information for both students and parents as well as a large number of interactive activities.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login as a subscriber with these details:

user name: forjamescookonly
password: 92 results

The topics currently covered by the handbook are:

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<th>at home</th>
<th>specific skills</th>
<th>extra ‘general’ mini-units</th>
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<td>2. Organisation and Filing</td>
<td>2. Writing Skills</td>
<td>2. Becoming a Senior Student</td>
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<td>5. Dealing with Distractions</td>
<td>5. Research Skills</td>
<td>5. Your Brain and Memory</td>
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<td>7. Developing Motivation</td>
<td>tests and exams</td>
<td>+ Educational Kinesiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Goal Setting</td>
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<td>+ Living Across 2 Houses</td>
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<td>9. Lifestyle and Balance</td>
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<td>+ Travel: A Motivator to Learn</td>
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<td>10. Managing Stress</td>
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<td>+ Uni: Lecture Note-Making</td>
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<th>extra ‘technology’ mini-units</th>
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<td>1. Will we ever use this?</td>
<td>1. Technology Tools</td>
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<td>2. Using Classtime</td>
<td>2. Basic Computer Skills</td>
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<td>3. Asking for Help</td>
<td>3. Be CyberSmart</td>
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<td>4. Dealing with Conflict</td>
<td>+ Useful Apps for iPads</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Groupwork Skills</td>
<td>+ Microsoft OneNote</td>
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In addition to the huge amount of content, the systematic program for students to work through includes: online quizzes, summary sheets, worksheets, lots of FAQs answered, articles and links, online polls, facility to submit questions, helpful grids and planners, jokes and quotes, student thoughts, images and photos, students can submit ideas to win, competitions, audio and video files, streaming audio (to allow students the option to read or listen to the content) And: new content added regularly, new units added each year, new features added regularly. There is also a tracking system where students save the results of their end of unit quizzes and modules over the years.

Please note:

The above user name and password is for the use of the secondary school parents and students AT OUR SCHOOL ONLY. Please do not pass our school’s details onto students or parents from other schools or other individuals or organisations as this is a prosecutable breach of copyright and also will result in frequent password changes for our school. Please also ensure you read through the terms of use the first time you access the handbook.

We encourage all parents and students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their students’ study skills abilities through this online resource.