Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Last week I spent 3 days at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney attending the annual Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools Principals conference (AJASS). It was a wonderful opportunity to share with 31 other secondary Josephite school Principals what is happening in each of our schools. There is a common bond between each one of us that is linked by the charism of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. At the conference we had the pleasure of meeting and hearing from a number of Sisters of St Joseph who work in different ministries throughout NSW, with a particular focus on their work with the disadvantaged and poor.

The spirit of social justice and compassion is very much alive here at St Joseph's also with a large number of awareness raising, fundraising and immersion activities undertaken each year by our students. One such activity involves a group of Year 11 girls visiting Warmun, in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, for two weeks at the end of this term as a social justice immersion and an opportunity to support the Aboriginal community in this area. It is wonderful to know that we are able to help support the work of the Sisters of St Joseph with our efforts.

**Year 11 Retreat**
I had the pleasure of attending part of the Year 11 Retreat at Collaroy this week. The behaviour, responsiveness and involvement of the girls in all the activities was excellent. I know that the students enjoyed the opportunity to reflect and to consider the way they relate to others and to their faith. Special thanks go to the teachers who attended the retreat, particularly Mrs Pip Mercer and Ms Louise Nash for all their efforts in organising the retreat experience.

**JJAMM Afternoon**
Our annual activities for JJAMM (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) afternoon on Friday 5th June was very successful with a guest band, food stalls, a Year 12 dance competition and a digital scavenger hunt all part of our celebrations. The activities on the day help establish our distinct identity as the community of St. Joseph's Catholic College. Special thanks go to our Leaders of House and to the girls who helped organise and run the variety of activities on the day.

I hope the final 2 weeks of school for Term 2 are very productive and rewarding for all our students and teachers.

God bless

Tony McCudden
Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Letters from parents/carers to explain early departure from and late arrival to school

There have been instances recently where the office were presented with notes from parents for permission for daughters to leave early and the departure time (or in some instances the arrival time at school) has been altered. Parents may have made a genuine mistake in recording the time so crossed it out and wrote the corrected time above or beside the mistake. However, all notes are legal documents so parents are asked to initial any change please so it is clear the adjusted time is signed by you. Please note that the college will always apply the time we are certain has been recorded by parents. We will not accepted an adjusted time not initialled by parents or an adjusted time we are not absolutely certain has been made by parents/carers.

Also, please understand that parents are required to explain all absences, late arrival to school and early departure from school. The college must retain all notes so we respectfully ask that parents consider this when choosing the size and style of note written to account for attendance.

Our college uniform

I think I write more about the issue of student uniform than any other and I know I have commented on the function of and reasons schools like ours has a uniform and more particularly, about why we apply uniform standards. Year Leaders refer to these standards at year assemblies as do I at college assemblies. All students and parents agree to meet these standards when enrolling at the college and every year after that when they sign the front pages in the student planner to acknowledge they will meet college expectations.

With this in mind, I write this week about the following uniform standards:

- The skirt hem length for the majority of students is too short. I am insisting skirts be let down within a very short period of time. It may simply be a matter of girls not rolling skirts at the waist or it may mean purchasing a new skirt.
- Students are required to wear stockings to school every day. Please note that black socks under or over the top of stockings is not acceptable. If students believe they need a pair of socks under their stockings, they must choose little black sockette style socks.
- Students are not to wear non-regulation jumpers, jackets or hoodies – it is simple; girls are not to wear them, even under blazers. This includes any representative sports top/jacket. A letter from parents is rarely acceptable. Students are to wear their blazer, school jumper/cardigan or the school tracksuit top with the sport uniform. We are very clear about this.
- Students are not to wear sports uniform on a non-sports day – students wear a sports uniform on the day they have sport. PSS students in Years 9 and 10 wear their sports uniform in their double lesson which occurs once per cycle. Students are not permitted to wear sports uniform on any other day unless approved by me. PDHPE teachers will advise me in advance if students are required to wear sports uniforms for an extraordinary reason.

Please note that students are required to wear the correct uniform every day of the term. They may not adjust college uniform standards in search of a fashion statement. Our uniform regulations are available to all students and parents on the website and in the student planner and our standards will be strictly enforced from the beginning of Term 3. Thank you in advance for supporting our drive to raise the standard of uniform and presentation.

Punctuality and lateness to school – a new procedure

I wrote about this in last edition of the Journal so repeat it here for emphasis.

“Punctuality has been a real focus for us this year. Unfortunately, lateness to school continues to be an issue and too many students think it is acceptable to be late. We are all aware that lateness is sometimes unavoidable but these occasions are rare and do not define the person's behaviour. Our day here at school begins with the first bell at 8.30am. Students are required to move to morning pastoral which commences at 8.35am.

The college is introducing a new protocol for managing lateness from the beginning of Term 3 in which students can be late up to five times during the term without consequence. Subsequent ‘lates’ will result in an afternoon detention. Before school health and medical appointments will not be included in the five provided they are explained by a certificate or stamped appointment card. We believe a bank of five is sufficient to account for those occasions when traffic or transport is an issue. It is important that all our students recognise that learning and building community begins here at the college at 8:30am every day. We appreciate very much the support and cooperation of parents in helping us build a community that values justice, hope, compassion and respect and the importance of being punctual in very busy lives that are dominated by relationships with others.”

Year 7 – 11 Semester 1 awards and presentation of certificates

I remind parents that we have introduced a new Semester Awards program this year to complement the college’s existing positive awards program. Students in Years 7 - 11 will be eligible to receive one or both of the following awards:

- Semester Achievement Award – awarded to the top twenty students in the year based on aggregate (total) marks achieved by the student from assessment tasks including

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semester examinations when appropriate for the subjects studied during the semester.

- Semester Application Award – based on class teachers nominating a recipient(s) from their class who meets application and engagement criteria such as arriving to class prepared for learning, makes the most of all available opportunities to learn, completes all set work to the best of her ability and engages respectfully and cooperatively with all members of the class.

Semester 1 awards will be finalised over the next two weeks and recipients notified in a letter to accompany reports posted at the end of next week. A morning tea with the Principal in the second week of Term 3 will complete the process.

Macquarie University research project on cyberbullying
Students in Years 7 and 9 will complete this research questionnaire next Friday. Please return the consent form to me as soon as possible. Students who return the form, irrespective of agreeing or not agreeing to participate, go into a draw for iPod Shuffles. We ask you to consider the request for your daughter to participate in this very important research.

The term is rapidly drawing to a close. Thank you for supporting the college over the past several weeks in the busy time of exams, report writing and the numerous co-curricular activities we offer to the students.

Helen Love
Assistant Principal

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Well done to all students in Years 10 – 11 who gave their very best effort in their preparation and performance for the recent half-yearly examinations. Full academic reports for Years 7 – 11 will be sent home before the end of Term 2.

Year 12 HSC Study Guide 2015

The guide has practical information about the HSC and timely advice for students on how to succeed in the HSC exams. For the first time it has been written by BOSTES Curriculum Inspectors and staff, experienced NSW teachers and 2014 high achieving students. The guide includes:

- 49 articles from teachers
- 45 HSC courses
- 18 online videos on a range of popular subjects
- advice on oral and performance exams
- general advice on Music and language courses
- general study advice
- tips for parents

Year 12 students will be emailed a Students Online Bulletin with information and a link to the online version early next week (Week 9).

Year 12 trial HSC examinations
The Year 12 trial HSC examinations begin Monday 27th July (Week 3). Students will receive their examination timetables before the end of the term. This should assist the girls with their study and preparation. Between now and the end of term Year 12 should ask teachers about what to expect in the trial examinations and seek help with topic areas they find challenging. It is important that the girls plan their holiday time carefully to include time for rest, relaxation and fun. During the holidays the girls should make study notes and summarise syllabus dot points. It is also important that Year 12 spend time learning their notes, answering examination questions from past papers (there are many of these, including multiple choice questions on the BOSTES website) during the holidays. Students with major works are encouraged to continue working on these over the holidays.

Year 12 language students have now been informed of their examination centres, the dates and their allocated times for their HSC speaking examinations which begin in early August. Students have received printed confirmation advice which must be taken to their oral examination. If this confirmation advice is lost students should access Students Online to download another copy.

At the end of this newsletter is a flyer with information about excellent 2015 HSC exam workbooks published by BOSTES. These are available in print and as ebooks and copies are available in the library and can be purchased directly from BOSTES.

Year 8 - 11 parent-teacher interviews
Great partnerships between home and the college lead to successful student outcomes. Appointments for 2015 parent-teacher interviews must be made using the PTO online booking system which can be accessed via our website. For the first time this year, families will be emailed their unique login details and information about bookings on Monday 15th June. If there are any problems when making bookings then please contact Ms Michelle Döffay at the college. For those families who have not provided the college with email addresses, students will receive hard copies with login details.

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<tr>
<th>Bookings OPEN</th>
<th>Monday 22nd June at 9.00 am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-teacher evenings for Years 8 – 11 from 3.20 pm – 8.30pm</td>
<td>Monday 20th July and Wednesday 29th July</td>
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Subject selection for Year 10 into Year 11

Our subject selection process for the Year 11 2016 will begin soon and the following is an outline of what will take place during this process. More information will be made available at the relevant time.

1. A digital copy of the 2016 Year 11 Subject Information Handbook is now available to all students on the college website: http://www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/_uploads/rsfils/004468_ccfe.pdf and is being emailed to all students and families. As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child to make educational choices and career decisions. Parents and students will find it valuable to read through the handbook prior to the information evening. The booklet contains information on:
   - the subjects being offered at the college
   - (note that 2 units of English is mandatory)
   - the types of courses that can be chosen
   - how to select the best subjects for study
   - the requirements for an HSC

2. Information evening – Monday 3rd August 6 pm:
   The process of selection will be explained as well as any relevant information regarding regulations and requirements for both the Preliminary and the HSC years. All Year 10 parents and students are invited to attend. On this night information packages containing the 2016 Year 11 Subject Information Handbook, and other relevant information will be distributed. Parents and students will then have the opportunity to meet with staff to view presentations and have discussions about various Preliminary and HSC courses.

3. Student interviews Tuesday 11th August – Thursday 13th August. All Year 10 students will participate in an interview with a staff member to discuss their proposed subject choices for Year 11. The interview time will be in the information pack handed out at the subject selection evening. Parents are most welcome to attend these interviews. Subject selections will be submitted at the conclusion of the interviews.

4. Once all initial subject choices are in, timetable lines will be formed and any students with clashes will be interviewed again.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 10

It’s difficult to believe that we are almost halfway through the year! The first semester has been challenging and busy for Year 10. The girls are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic contribution to the life of the college. Some of the highlights have been mentoring Year 7, participating in St Joseph’s Day, JAMM day and the athletics carnival. The girls also had the chance to apply to participate in the Yellow Bellied Glider project which entails working with students from some primary schools as well as staff from Taronga Zoo. The committee involved in the selection of the students was extremely impressed with the quality of the applications. Unfortunately the number participating in the program is limited to 24 students, and choosing these from the fantastic 39 who applied proved to be very difficult. It is essential that the girls continue to apply for any opportunities offered and try not to be too disappointed if they miss out. Success comes from persistence and true grit! We are proud of the girls and they should also be proud of themselves.

The girls are certainly relieved they have now completed their half yearly examinations. I had many glowing reports from their teachers about the conscientious approach of the students and some of the excellent results. Girls should read their reports carefully and use them to set goals for the second semester. They may find it worthwhile to implement a study timetable if they felt overwhelmed at assessment time.

The students have the chance to attend a Careers Expo on the 23rd June. This is the region’s biggest expo event and gives students an opportunity to gather information about the careers, courses and jobs from over 200 exhibitors. Exhibitors are grouped into seventeen industry areas – including employer and professional associations, TAFE, universities, colleges, training providers and employment agencies. Attending this event will hopefully provide the girls with some ideas and motivation for their future directions.

The pastoral teachers of Year 7 have provided glowing reports of the enthusiasm Year 10 girls have shown in the Pastoral lessons “Sharing Life” with Year 7. The students are conducting discussions with the younger students on various aspects of school life such as friendship, social media, organization for school and how to make good use of spare time. All of this is enhanced by the girls bringing in food to share!
FROM THE LEADER of HSIE

We began Term 2 with a very special Anzac Day assembly to mark the 100 year anniversary of the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli. The assembly was run by a variety of junior students and this year's theme was based around the role the Anzac legend has played in shaping our national identity.

We have also provided a variety of opportunities for students to engage in some hands on application of their HSIE knowledge and skills through a range of excursions this year. Year 10 History students visited the Sydney Jewish Museum to build on their understanding of the Holocaust which is also the focus of their studies in the first half of the Year 10 History course.

The Year 10 Geography excursion to local coastal beaches allowed students to put their field work skills into practice and gave them an improved understanding of the issues affecting our coastal beaches.

Our Year 11 Legal Studies students developed a better understanding of the justice system and court processes on their visit to the Downing Centre in Sydney. The Year 12 Legal Studies class had two lawyers visit from Watts McCray to develop the student’s understanding of contemporary issues in Family Law. The session was excellent and provided a range of information to support the students’ studies in Family Law.

The first week in May also saw all the senior Geography students travel to Kosciuszko National Park for a three day excursion to study an ecosystem at risk. On the way down they visited Cooma and looked at the Snowy Hydro Centre as well as doing a study on Cooma as a regional centre.

The girls spent the whole second day with the staff of the national park learning about the alpine environment as well as the management strategies being used to care for this unique ecosystem.

The third day was spent walking to the top of Mount Kosciuszko via the Thredbo chair lift. Of the 13km they were meant to walk they only travelled around 800m due to the severe weather on the day (wind gusts to 90km per hour and temperatures as low as minus 18 with the wind chill factor). The girls also got to experience driving in the snow. While not ideal for walking it will mean as they sit in their HSC they will be able to remember the severe conditions that make this ecosystem so unique. Thank you to Mrs Parsons and Mrs Smith for their involvement in the excursion.

Mrs Toby
FROM CAREERS CORNER

Dates for your Diary
University of Newcastle Schools Visit Days
Years 11 & 12 students are invited to attend the University of Newcastle’s annual schools visit day. The day consists of a varied program of presentations and tours. The event offers students a unique opportunity to speak to the academic staff and current students about their study options and to get a taste of University life on the Newcastle Campus.

Date: Thursday 25th June 2015
Time: 9am – 3pm
Place: Newcastle Campus, Callaghan

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marriage Debate – What Can You Do?
As you may be aware, the question of Same Sex Marriage has taken on a certain urgency recently. This question is not something that should only be left for Parliamentarians to decide, based solely on the views of lobbyists and pressure groups. We all have a responsibility and a voice to make clear that a change in the definition of marriage will impact our local communities in very real and immediate ways. To assist you in being well informed, a number of resource and information materials are available on the Diocesan website www.dbb.org.au including a Draft letter to Members of Parliament and contacts for those representatives in Broken Bay. To find out more about what you can do, please contact the Diocesan Communications Office on 9847 0724 / news@dbb.org.au.