



Semper Paratus

Newsletter of
James Sheahan
Catholic High School

Volume 2 Number 21
Thursday 27 August

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 29 August,
Tuesday 1 September,
Thursday 3 September
Year 11 2010 Interviews

Sunday 30 August,
Monday 31 August
Leadership Camp

Wednesday 2 September
School Disco

Friday 4 September
Sheahan Day

Monday 7 September
Year 7 Immunisation

Friday 11 September
Year 12 Reports issued to
students

Tuesday 15 September
P&F Meeting, Kenna Hall

Tuesday 22 September
Year 7 Reflection Day

Wednesday 23
September
Year 9 Reflection Day

Thursday 24 September,
Friday 25 September
Year 10 Trial SC Exams

Peace of Mind

Never let anything cause you
trouble or anxiety
which is not an offence against God.

The Venerable Catherine McAuley

Message of Thanks

Fran and Robert (Hannah Taylor's mother and father) would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone in the Sheahan community for their generous assistance in the preparation of and participation in Hannah's funeral. It was a touching and beautiful celebration of Hannah's life. For the ongoing support they have received they also add their humble thanks.

Staff Changes

Mr Marcus Richards has decided on a new adventure and thus has completed his time with us at James Sheahan. We wish Mr Richards all the best in his new venture and thank him for his work here. In his place, we welcome Mr David Fowell for the remainder of 2009 as classroom teacher. Ms Sandra Austin will be Acting Year 8 Coordinator from this week. I know that Ms Austin will be a wonderful asset to the Welfare team.

Draft Strategic Plan

This week, I present the information on the third area of the plan concerning Teaching, Learning, Staff and Professional Development. I welcome your feedback.

TEACHING, LEARNING/STAFF/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Goal: *To ensure that the staff at James Sheahan Catholic High School is provided with appropriate training, support and expertise such that they are engaged in excellent teaching and learning.*

Target 1: To provide a technologically rich learning environment

Action

- Year 1 - Create funding model
- Conduct audit of technology and provide quotes
- Year 2 - Purchase and installation of technology as outlined in funding model
- Year 3 - Enculturation of the technology in all KLAs
- Ongoing evaluation of effectiveness and usage

Target 2: To review school structure to best meet curriculum needs

Action

- Year 1 - Data gathering in terms of options, curriculum offerings, need of the community; national, global and local influences
- Year 2 - Put data together into options/models with consideration of timetable implications for community comment
- Year 3 - Trial portions of the options/models with alternative timetable introduced

Target 3: To provide quality professional learning that meets staff and student needs

Action

- Year 1 - Priority and focus for professional development is special needs education and learning support
- Year 2 - Priority and focus for professional development is ICT
- Year 3 - Priority and focus for professional development is motivation, engagement and differentiation of the curriculum in the classroom

Target 4: To employ a range of pedagogical practices to provide excellence in teaching and learning

Action

- Year 1 - Afford staff the opportunity to reach students with special needs/learning difficulties in the staffroom
- Year 2 - Evidence that ICT has been used in the classroom by the sharing of resources/ideas twice a term at a KLA meeting
- Year 3 - Every staff member provides one idea for promoting motivation, engagement and/or differentiation of the curriculum to be printed on the back of the Sheahan Schedule

Target 5: To provide for staff welfare and support

Action

- Year 1 - A meeting free week implemented during the 2 major junior reporting periods during which all other activities will be kept to a minimum
- Year 2 - Investigate ways of rewarding and affirming staff for their contribution to the JSCHS educational community
- Year 3 - Provide alternative models to a traditional Half Yearly and Yearly Exam models for juniors to staff

Statistics

At the recent Years 7 – 10 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews 36% of parents availed themselves of the opportunity to meet with staff.

Last week we held the Parent Information evening for Year 9, 2010, where 53% of current Year 8 parents were in attendance.

COUNTDOWN TO SHEAHAN DAY

Sheahan Day is only 1 week away and will be held on Friday September 4! There is nothing like a school day where you get to spend all your time with your friends participating in fun activities. The day is an opportunity to celebrate the people, culture, traditions and everything else that make James Sheahan the fantastic school that it is.

After the dress-up parade, there is a fun run/ fun walk around the Ag farm. There are house points and prizes on offer, so serious runners should get in some practice before the day. The free BBQ lunch is after the fun run. In order to get your lunch, you will need to have collected the stamps along the fun run – so no short cuts!

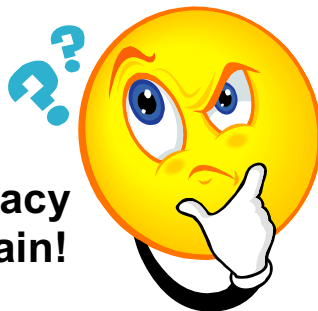
The SRC run activities during the lunch break and they will be advertised next week. Some activities do require a small payment to cover the cost of the materials. Will Jelly Wrestling be back? Which activities will involve getting wet? Watch this space for more details!!

There will also be bands playing to add atmosphere to the afternoon. After lunch, the school will unite to participate in the whole school activity – we will be practising for this during the week!

Parents and Carers are most welcome to help us celebrate by coming to the opening Mass which starts at 9.00am.

Michael Tilston
Administration Coordinator

The Annual Literacy and Numeracy Trivia Quiz is on again!



When: Thursday 3 September at lunchtime

Where: The Library

Who: Teams of 4 or 6

Why: Have fun and win great prizes!

Helen Anderson
Teacher Librarian

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Making James Sheahan Catholic High School more sustainable was the theme of last week's National Tree Day with over 200 trees planted thanks to the school's newly formed environmental group and the students from Year 7 and 10 Agriculture.

Thanks to the very generous sponsorship of West Orange Motors Toyota and the Student Representative Council, the specially selected trees were planted to revegetate a saline wetland that had been created when the earthworks to form the school oval were conducted.

Firstly the strenuous effort of Years 7 and 9 were employed in removing what seemed like hundreds of biddy bush from the area, digging drainage trenches and preparing planting sites ready for the day.

The heavy rains the week before meant the work was heavy going but the students soldiered on and the results were well worth it.

The area is now planted with a mixture of salt tolerant eucalypts, grasses, melaleucas and acacias.

Environmental group coordinator Mrs Susan Humphrys was delighted with the work achieved on the day, and says the group has long term plans to ensure the project succeeds in terms of watering, weed control and general tree care.



The environmental group meets regularly and interested students should see Mrs Humphrys or listen carefully to the notices for their opportunity to get involved.

Sarah Eyb
VET Coordinator/Agriculture Teacher

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

On 18 August, hundreds of Vietnam Veterans across the country gathered to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan which occurred 43 years ago and to celebrate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day. Year 10 students Madelaine Clifford, Claire Aumuller, Morgan Kelly and Nicholas Dalton travelled to Robertson Park in order to assist with the Remembrance Ceremony in Orange. At the service we honoured the outstanding bravery of the members of the Australian Armed Forces who served our country in the Vietnam War from 1962 - 1972.

The students were honoured to have been given the opportunity to speak at this service and to show their gratitude for the amazing work of the men and women who served our country all those years ago. In Maddy's speech she said "At 15 years of age it is not hard to look back on Australia's military history and immediately develop a deep gratitude for the incredible work of people like each of you standing before me. It is people like you who have made it possible for me to grow up in the beautiful country I do with all the opportunities I have."

Following the service the students returned to the Ex-Services Club to enjoy a nice lunch with the veterans. They received an overwhelming amount of praise from the people who were at the service for the way in which they conducted themselves and also appreciated the amazing stories that they had shared with them by the veterans.

*Madelaine Clifford, Claire Aumuller,
Morgan Kelly and Nicholas Dalton
Year 10*

P&F

A very informative presentation on cyberbullying was the topic for this month's P&F focus.

Orange Police schools liaison officer, Amanda Beattie, reinforced the issues regarding the seriousness for us as parents and the consequences for our children who may get caught up with the fallout of cyberbullying.



The strongest message we took away was to be an informed parent about sites such as twitter, MSN and BEBO. Ensure your child knows how to be safe whilst using these sites and be aware of what your child is doing whilst on the computer and their mobile phones.

Mr McKie also gave an update on the school's antibullying policy and outlined the many different ways staff tackle bullying at James Sheahan.

So, thank you to both presenters, as a committee we are very appreciative of the time you have given to help parents understand these issues.

The Krispy Kreme Drive will be the next P&F fundraiser so watch out for order forms in the near future.

*Tania Rusden
Publicity Officer*

NSW CATHOLIC NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Juniors (U/13's and U/12's)

James Sheahan Netball teams travelled to Penrith recently to participate in the Catholic Netball State championships. Teams from across NSW took part in the carnival with James Sheahan drawn to play against some of the large Sydney Catholic Independent Ladies Colleges.

The Junior team comprising girls aged 12 and 13 years, had a very successful day defeating teams from St Ives, Varroville and Kensington, drawing against Woolwich and narrowly going down to Manly, Parramatta and Pennant Hills.

Overall the team finished fourth in its championship division, scoring 62 goals and conceding 62 goals, in matches that lasted only fourteen minutes.

Mighty performances were given by all players in the hot and demanding conditions. The shooting team of Kadasyn Byrnes, Sharn Kelly and Maddison Gillette stood tall and strong against the taller opposition defences.

Their understanding, shooting accuracy and combination in the attacking circle created many opportunities to convert the hard work into points.

The centre court combination of Charlotte Jasprizza, Meg Miller and Jaimee Hatton was spectacular, with safe hands, rocket-like passing and dazzling footwork constantly keeping the team in the game and creating opportunities for many strong attacking moves. The whole court defence of all players forced many turnovers, with opposition teams conceding possession due to this pressure.

The defensive squad of Lucy Spicer, Sophie Brown and Katie Matthews did a terrific job in limiting and denying opposition teams scoring chances, by strong interceptions and athletic rebounding. In matches against Manly and Parramatta the girls were pitted against giant sized shooters who quickly became aware that they would only get one shot at the goal, if they missed.

Congratulations to all players for your outstanding performance, success and for your good sportsmanship. Special thanks to the generous and appreciative parent supporters who assisted and encouraged the girls throughout the day.

Michael Powell
Coach

School Disco

Dear Parent/Carer

The SRC is organising a school disco in the hall on Wednesday 2 September commencing at 7.00pm and concluding at 10.00pm.

In light of the events surrounding our last school disco it is very important that we again stress our rules and procedures for school functions such as these. **Smoking and alcohol are strictly forbidden.** Any evidence of drinking alcohol at the disco will result in suspension and a ban on attending future discos. Any student who consumes alcohol before the disco will be treated equally as severely. We have a breathalyser at the disco and **we reserve the right to breath test any students whom we suspect have consumed alcohol.** The purchase of disco tickets is voluntary and students who purchase a ticket do so under the condition that they will willingly submit to a breath test if requested by staff. Students who choose to consume or bring alcohol or drugs to a school function will place in jeopardy their continued enrolment at James Sheahan.

SJS CRICKET CLUB SIGN-ON DAYS

SJS Cricket Club Inc will be holding sign-on days for players wishing to compete in Kanga to Open Juniors in the 2009/10 season on Sunday 6 September 2009 in Kenna Hall from 10.30am to 1.00pm and also on Wednesday 9 September 2009 from 4.00pm to 6.30pm.

Registration fees:

Kanga \$50.00

U/10 - Open Juniors \$70.00 per player or \$100.00 per family

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Tracey van Schaik on 63631814 or Steve Warrington on 63602778.

ORANGE SKATE PARK EXTENSIONS

Orange City Council plans to extend the Skate Park and needs your help to design the extensions.

Come and tell us what you think the Skate Park needs on Friday 4 September 2009 between 4.00pm - 6.00pm at the Netball Association Building on Anson Street (near the Skate Park). Refreshments provided.

Consultations and design will be conducted by Oasis Skate Parks. Visit www.oasisskateparks.com.au for more information on past projects.

Jason Lowe
Youth Development Officer
Orange City Council



Any students who are found to have broken these strict rules will be suspended from school and parent interviews will be necessary before a return to school is permitted.

If students are deemed to have consumed alcohol or some other drug parents/carers will be telephoned immediately, and will be required to come and pick up their child without delay.

Please do not give permission for your child to attend this disco if you are not prepared to support our stance in this regard. In signing the child's disco ticket you are indicating that you have a) read this letter and b) give your express permission for the above.

The theme of the disco is **"Circus Funhouse"** and students are allowed to dress up. Outfits need to be considered carefully though, as brief, skimpy or distasteful outfits are not acceptable. All students are required to wear adequate footwear, and all students are expected to wear a shirt or top. Boys take particular note: a shirt or top **MUST** be worn at all times. Students without shoes/appropriate footwear or without shirts will be refused entry. It is the prerogative of the school staff to determine what constitutes inappropriate dress.

Entertainment will be provided by a DJ and refreshments available to buy. Tickets cost \$7.00 and can be purchased at lunchtime in the Quad from Thursday 27 August to Tuesday 1 September. Tickets will **NOT** be available on the day of the disco, or from the door. We have increased the price of the ticket in order to provide an extra security guard at the disco. This has been done in the interests of the safety of everyone at the disco.

Parents/carers may purchase tickets at the front office. **Students must have the permission note section of the ticket signed by a parent or carer.** An example of the disco ticket is shown on the previous page. The ticket will be checked and collected by a supervising teacher on the night of the disco.

Students arriving late or having to leave early will need to have a note given to Mr. Tilston **BEFORE** the night of the disco. At the conclusion of the disco, parents and carers can wait outside the hall. The doors to the foyer will not be opened until the students leave. The disco will be supervised by volunteer teachers and security guards will patrol the perimeter and car park.

Parents or carers will be called to collect a student immediately if:

- The student is dressed inappropriately
- The permission note on the ticket is unsigned
- The student is suspected of alcohol or drug use
- The student is found smoking
- The student is behaving inappropriately or violently

It is essential that we have an accurate contact phone number for all parents of students attending the disco. We expect that you will be contactable during the course of the evening should this be necessary.

There will be a new system of entry into the disco: students will be required to line-up outside the hall in Year group order. Students in Years 7 and 8 should form a single line directly outside of the hall and will be the first students to gain entry from 6.45pm onwards. They should arrive at the disco at this time. Students in Years 9 and 10 will be allowed in next. They are to line-up in an orderly fashion behind Years 7 and 8. Students in Years 11 and 12 will not be permitted into the disco until all junior students have entered. They will not gain entry until 7.00pm. Students who push or attempt to jump the queue will also be denied entry.

Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who have made our past school discos such a success. With your continued support, we look forward to a great evening next week.

Unfortunately, should there be further cause for concern at this disco, then this will be the last disco we offer at our school.

Michael Tilston
Administration Coordinator

Craig Wattam
Principal