Welcome back to the start of the 2014 academic year; with a special welcome to our Year 7 students and parents/caregivers!

The first two weeks of term have been busy and exciting and have indicated that we have indeed; all returned to school with newly injected enthusiasm, reviewed and renewed goals and a unified, positive approach for another successful year at James Cook Boys High School. We are currently in the third year of our 3-year School Management Plan and, as a school community, are looking forward to seeing the results of our hard work, research, consultation and collaboration as we move into the important evaluation stages of our strategic implementations. As always, our school will continue to position our students and staff in a learning community where student learning and welfare needs are of primary importance. The professional and committed staff at our school continues to provide wonderful, quality, learning opportunities for our boys and take professional pride in making informed and evidence-based decisions about the young people they educate and mentor. Great teaching, inspired learning at JCBHS!

Once again, the primary role and focus of our school will always be to ensure we support our students to reach their full potential; not only as academics or sportsmen or artists but also as valued community members. To reach their ultimate potential, students must recognise the vital importance of good standards in literacy and numeracy and must therefore make the most of all learning opportunities and experiences by being engaged in all lessons. However, students are also encouraged to actively embrace opportunities and challenges outside the walls of the classroom, where they can actively contribute to our school and wider community. I look forward to learning about endeavours and achievements happening in our school throughout 2014.

Our school community would like to officially and warmly congratulate all the students who successfully attained their HSC in 2013. We are proud of all the boys, whose commitment and effort propelled them to reach this important milestone.

Special congratulations to our 2013 School Dux, Shuai (Roy) Shao, who achieved an outstanding ATAR of 96.5. Further congratulations must go to Mohamad Fakih (94.6) and Shubham Prajapati (93.8) for achieving fantastic overall results.
Principal’s report continued

During our most recent professional learning days, the last 2 school days in 2013, and the first school day in 2014, our teaching staff participated in a number of activities where they used data to inform, drive and to assist with their selection of targeted classroom strategies to further develop programs for implementation in 2014. The following areas were explored: micro analysis of our 2013 HSC & NAPLAN results; Positive Behaviour Learning framework (PBL); school values & Cook’s Code of Behaviour; cloud technology for teaching resources; subject-specific reading strategies for all faculties; new school learning support models and structures for students with identified needs and a review of the 2014 School Management Plan.

The most significant change for all schools in 2014 is the additional funding being provided for schools with Aboriginal students and students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Instead of receiving money through a variety of central programs, schools will now receive funding for these students directly through equity loadings. These loadings include: school location & size; low socio-economic status students; Aboriginal students and students with identified disabilities. These loadings have been developed to meet a key objective of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM); to ensure that the money identified in the education budget supports students and schools with additional needs and is allocated as fairly and accurately as possible. As a result, our school has finally been given additional funds through the RAM to ensure the identified learning needs of our students are supported throughout 2014. The RAM funding and the National Partnership Improving Literacy & Numeracy funding will allow for the provision of additional teaching resources and will be instrumental in supporting the identified learning needs of our students.

Our school is looking forward to a very productive, energised and rewarding 2014 as all of us; school staff, students and parents / caregivers continue to work together with a unified vision and shared, common goals so that our boys can become the very best that they can be! But always remember, it is not about being the best but giving your best!

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Hussein Dakdouk – Mathematics
Jamie Kantarovski – Engineering Studies
Mohamad Fakih – Chemistry & Mathematics Extension 1
Shubham Prajapati – Chemistry & Mathematics

Mr. Vallis and Shuai Roy Shao - 2013 School Dux
Welcome all, especially our new Year 7 cohort and families to the 2014 academic year.

It has only been a few weeks and while the majority of our Year 7 cohort has transitioned smoothly, some are still finding their feet and getting accustomed to high school life.

A few reminders of the expectations and procedures of the school:

- If your son is **ABSENT**, please ensure he has a note of explanation on the first day he returns to school so the rolls are adjusted accordingly. These are legal documents and we appreciate your assistance in keeping them correctly updated.

- If your son is **LATE TO SCHOOL**, he is to proceed to the front office where he will sign in and be given an entry pass to his class. Once again, it’s imperative the boys follow this procedure to ensure attendance records are accurate. If your son/s is late three times in a fortnight he will incur an afternoon detention. If his lateness continues, a parental interview will be called.

- If your son is **OUT OF CLASS** without teacher permission, he will incur a detention after school on Thursday from 2.08-3.00 as a deterrent and to help emphasise to the boys that school rules need to be complied with and being in class during class time is the most important place for them to be.

- Upon enrolling in any school families undertake to adhere to the rules of the school. We are a **UNIFORM** wearing school and therefore require our students to be in full and correct uniform each day. If your son is not correctly attired, he needs to bring a note from home and present it to the front office where he will be granted a pass for the day. If he doesn’t have a note, he will be issued with a detention. Uniform detentions are held each Thursday from 2.08-3.00 and attendance is compulsory.

- Students who **TRUANT** classes will be issued with a detention to make up the time. We urge parents to encourage their sons to refrain from truanting as it has enormous ramifications to the learning continuum. Truancy detentions are held each Tuesday from 3.00-4.00. and attendance is compulsory.

I also ask parents to please be wary as they enter or exit the carpark if they are dropping off or collecting their son. The driveway is narrow, allowing only one car at a time to proceed in either direction, and the highway is always busy with heavy traffic flow, leaving no place for cars to reverse if the entrance to the school is blocked by exiting cars. It is preferable that boys use the overpass and determine with their families a safer place to meet.

We are holding our annual Open Night on Tuesday 25th February between 5.30-7pm where we will welcome prospective students and their families and showcase the wonderful opportunities James Cook offers our students.

This event will run concurrently with the Year 7 Open Classroom where current Year 7 families are invited to come in and meet your son’s teachers and have an informal meeting about your son’s first few weeks at high school. Each boy will be given information on the event and we would like to see as many Year 7 families as are able to attend.

2014 also marks the beginning of the Australian Curriculum for Years 7 and 9 in the subject areas of English, Maths, Science and History. The staff have been working overtime to ensure the new programs for these year groups are updated to fit the new requirements and also meet the needs and abilities of our students.

If there is anything that you require more information on please contact me on 95871770. In working together we can forge strong relationships so the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of our students is catered for.
Welfare

It is with great pleasure and excitement we begin another year at JCBHS. I am sure 2014 will be full of interesting and challenging programs that will benefit all students as they strive for academic and social excellence.

A very big thank you and congratulations to the outgoing Year 12 student advisor for 2013, Ms Loutfy who gave sterling service in her position and a big warm welcome to the incoming Year 7 Advisor, Mr Yelavich who will undoubtedly provide guidance and support to the newest cohort.

As mentioned towards the end of last year, the school has implemented a new behavioural expectation approach titled PBL (Positive Behaviour and Learning). The schools old Cook’s Code has been replaced by a more visually and less content based set of expectations, which nevertheless still highlights very clearly what it means to be a responsible, respectful and safe active learner of the school.

Cook’s Code will be complimented by posters that have been strategically placed around the school displaying a set of expectations in given ‘zones’, for example, corridors, outside staffrooms and toilets to name a few. It is hoped the positive nature of PBL will be embraced by all staff and students as we look to move forward.

As we are all aware, consistent Attendance is vital to attaining a good and positive education. Please ensure that students are prepared and ready to learn every day and that they arrive on time for the commencement of class at 8.45am.

Truancy monitoring will be overseen by the Head Teacher Welfare and those who are caught truanting will be issued with a letter stating an afternoon detention on Tuesday afternoon. Continual non-compliance on the issue of truancy will result in a Senior Executive interview and possible suspension.

We welcome again all the external agencies who will be assisting us with providing extra support to our boys - St George Youth Services, MTC Work Solutions, Riverwood Community Centre - Time Out, PCYC, Direct Employment and NOVA Employment to name a few.

As we welcome the Year of the Horse, let us begin with a canter and build up to a gallop as the year unfolds.

Year 7— Mr. Yelavich

Firstly, I’d like to thank all parents and caregivers for affording me the opportunity to mentor your son, in the role of Year Advisor, as they commence their High School journey here at James Cook. It is an exciting time not only for all year 7 students, but myself as well.

On the whole, it has been an impressive start to High School for the entire year 7 cohort. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce two important points:

♦ ALL year students must be attired in full school uniform at all times. If your son requires a uniform pass for any reason, they must see Mr. Yelavich in the PDHPE staffroom before the start of school.

♦ ALL students must arrive to all lessons on time. In order to gain the most out of their educational experiences, students must be in class.

If at any stage you would like to discuss your son’s progress here at James Cook, I encourage you to contact me here at the school, I am located in the PDHPE faculty.

Year 7 Camp

On Wednesday 5th March (week 6), year 7 along with the Peer Support leaders from year 10, will embark on the ‘Great Aussie Bush Camp’ which goes over three days.
Year 7— Mr. Yelavich

This camp has been designed to help develop in your son resilience, maturity, communication and team work skills, which are essential to ensure your son not only adapts to their new surroundings at high school, but meets and exceeds their potential here at James Cook.

Important camp details:
   - Wednesday 5th March – Friday 7th March
   - Cost - $285 (includes all meals, travel and activities)
   - Permission Notes must be returned ASAP. If you require an information and permission note, please ask your son to collect this note from the PDHPE staffroom.

I strongly encourage ALL year students to be part of this great experience.

Step-up Program
Recently your son commenced the James Cook Step-up Program. This program is a peer led program that aims to:
   - Improve self-confidence,
   - Build and foster peer relationships,
   - Enhance communication skills, and
   - Develop support networks within the school.
This program will continue to run for 1 period a fortnight, for Terms 1-3.

Year 7 Open Night

On Tuesday the 25th February, I would like to invite all year 7 parents, caregivers and students to attend the 'Year 7 Open Night' for 2014. This night will be held at James Cook Boys Technology High School in the Library from 5:30pm until 6:30pm. It will give you the opportunity to meet with your sons teachers for 2014, and gain important feedback from their teachers on how your child has adapted to life in high school.

Student work displays will also be set up to exhibit the learning which has been undertaken throughout the first five weeks of high school.

I look forward to meeting with you on the night.

Year 8 - Mr. Van Dijk

Welcome back to year 8 for 2014, I trust you all had a great break and are well rested for the year ahead. Year 7 had a great 2013 and I can only hope that this will continue in 2014. Although the term is only a few weeks old there is plenty on for the students. Summer sport begins this week and it is imperative that all notes and monies are bought back to Mr Yelavich in PDHPE, this is important as your son will not be able to participate if these are not handed in. Also, the school swimming carnival will be taking place on 27th February at Sans Souci Pool and is compulsory for year 8 to attend, again, please return your permission note for this important school event.

As always if there are any issues you wish to raise with me, please don’t hesitate to contact me, as I am happy to talk about anything that you need clarification on.
Year 9—Mr. Edwards

Welcome back to Year 9, it has been pleasing to see so many of you ready to engage with your lessons. The feedback from your teachers has been excellent, well done.

2013 was a particularly successful year for this excellent year group. There were some wonderful results at the end of year, and the final, awards assembly was testimony to this.

This year James Cook Boys’ High school is implementing a new behavioral and welfare system entitled “PBL” (Positive Behaviour and Learning). There have been visual aids placed across the school and the boys have been handed a sheet outlining the PBL philosophy, which the boys have been following. I would encourage each parent/caregiver to discuss the expectations of school.

While I realize that it is mentioned at various points throughout this newsletter, I would like to remind parents and caregivers that JCBHS is a uniform school. The only day that sports uniform is to be worn, throughout the day, is Wednesday (sports day). At all other times the full school, available from Lowes Rockdale Plaza, needs to be worn. Any issues with purchasing the uniform, please call the school and I am happy to discuss the situation.

This year will bring many rich rewards in the classroom where the new curriculum is being fine tuned and delivered across various subjects to Year 7 and 9. Each student will shortly obtain their assessment handbook which clearly outlines the course requirements for each subject. If any parent/caregiver requires clarification on any academic matters please contact the Head teacher of that particular subject area who will be able to help with your enquiry. This is the first year the students are in their own elective classes.

Year 10 —Mr. Errington

Welcome back to year 10. I trust that you are all well rested and ready to engage, with purpose and a mindful attitude, with your studies this year. Remember, you are to be in class, on-time, in full school uniform and prepared to learn.

Now is the time to consider what subjects you will take in your senior years, have a discussion with your teachers, your parents/caregivers and the careers advisor, Mrs Blatchford, who will be more than happy to talk you through your options.

I look forward to working with you closely as you navigate your way from the junior studies to your senior years. Best of luck this year gentleman.
**Year 11 - Ms. Cork**

The start of the 2014 school year has brought about much change for the boys in year 11. Not only have they commenced learning in the subjects of their choice, they have also returned with the new status of being a senior student at James Cook.

Being a senior student is far more than wearing a white shirt and dealing with the daily challenge of tying the perfect tie. While some students are still struggling with their new dressing ritual, the daily lessons delivered by the more experienced tie wearers in the quad before class, have assured me that boys understand the significance of taking pride in their new status by looking sharp and ready for business every day. 2014 will be the year of getting down to the business end of their school education and although it may be a daunting prospect for some, I am confident that focus, commitment and responsibility of the students displayed so far, will ensure that this year will continue to be productive and enlightening for all.

As the year advisor of this fantastic group of young men nothing makes me more proud to hear the consistently positive feedback from the teachers of year 11 and even the boys themselves. Many teachers have gone out of their way to share their joy in being able to teach such focused and willing young men in their respective subjects. It is clear that the transition into senior school has been smooth so far and I encourage all boys to maintain this throughout the year. But, as the pressure of the subject demands and assessment tasks mount, it will take organisation, dedication and a willingness to build on the already strong student teacher relationships that the boys have established in their first few weeks as senior students. This year will no doubt be an exciting and eventful year for all and I cannot wait to continue my role as a year advisor by supporting these young men as they continue their journey into adulthood.

**Year 12 - Ms. Rees**

Recently Year 12 listened to a story about a builder who was asked to construct a luxurious house. Though the builder was given an unlimited budget by the owner, he chose to skimp on the workmanship. On the last day the owner surprised him by saying, “Here, take the key. The house is for you and your family.” It does not take much to imagine the conflict felt by the builder.

Year 12 saw clearly that this parable was not an exploration of issues facing the NSW housing industry. Rather it was about the personal principles that guide our choices. As these students prepare for their first major public examination, they too must determine how decisions will affect the nature of their paths into the adult world. On a personal level, this inner voice needs to hone their conscious awareness of the ways in which they can contribute wisely, ethically and respectfully to the community. Equally within the frame of education, this inner voice should be valuing knowledge, appreciating teacher support and embracing study opportunities.

It is pleasing to note in 2014, that many of these young men are actively constructing these types of futures. As learners and individuals, the focus on goals, the embracing of calm maturity and thoughtful efforts in assessment tasks will ensure personal dividends. Unlike the previously mentioned builder, their keys will unlock “houses” filled with the quality inclusions of their own making.
Welcome to our new Year 7 students who have settled into High School quickly and are approaching their studies in English with diligence and enthusiasm. Currently Year 7 are writing about their own experiences and learning to write journal entries and biographical and autobiographical texts. We will move on to read a novel this term and learn about the experiences of other young people.

**Junior English**

Year 8 students have begun the year positively and they are delving into Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. Mr Edwards and Ms Naguib are looking forward to some excellent performances as students prepare a presentation of their favourite story. Mr Edwards has been very pleased with the keen response of his Year 9 students to the new class novel, “A Monster Calls” by Patrick Ness.

Students in Year 10 are reading a variety of prose texts, including the American class Of Mice and Men, that focus on “Growing Up” and analysing the development of characters in these texts. At the end of the term they will be writing and performing monologues based on these characters.

**Senior English**

It is important that students in Year 11 and 12 maintain an organised and consistent approach to their English work. Both senior years are investigating the “Area of Study” which forms 40% of their course. Year 11 students have received their first assessment task and are preparing a creative writing response based on the text they are studying. Year 12 have also received their assessment task which is a writing folder about “Belonging” and they should be busy preparing their belonging narrative and recording what they have learnt each lesson in their journal so that they can make a detailed response in their essay. Congratulations to Ali Gacham, Seth Jones, Mohammed Ali, Hussein Issa, Abbas Zaher, Yun Li and Ray Miao for excellent effort and results in their first unit of work in Year 12.

We also offer our congratulations to Year 12 students who were awarded the H.S.C. in 2013. This year group will be remembered as an exceptional group of young men and many have returned to the school to inform their teachers of the university courses that they will be studying in 2014. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and should be very proud of all their achievements.

**Library**

Mrs Daveron has replaced Mr Chung as the teacher librarian for this term. We thank Mr Chung for his professionalism and hard work at James Cook. Mrs Daveron has purchased chess and other board games for students to enjoy at lunch and recess breaks. She is also organising new books and magazines and we encourage all students to enjoy the rewards of reading for pleasure. It is essential that Year 12 students use their study periods efficiently in this most important year and I thank Mrs Daveron for her hard work in organising and assisting Year 12 students who are working in their study periods.

All students in Year 7 will have the opportunity to participate in Drama throughout this year and Ms McDermott is also teaching elective Drama to students in Year 9. These practical courses reinforce students’ literacy skills and build positive self-esteem.

The English staff looks forward to an enjoyable and productive 2014 and encourages all students to achieve their personal best.

Ms. Rix - English Head Teacher
Mathematics Competitions

Just a reminder that the **Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)** is being held on **Thursday 7th August, 2014**. The entry fee for students is **$6.00**. Payment is due by the 4th April Week 10 Term 1.

Also the **University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition (ICAS Mathematics)** is being held on **Tuesday 12th August, 2014**. The entry fee for students is **$8.80**. Payment is due by the 20th June Week 8 Term 2.

Please join and pay the Accounts office to these World renown competitions ASAP.

Mr. R. Mansour—Mathematics Head Teacher

Science

This year the science department is trialling out the new national curriculum for year 7, 8 and 9. The year has started really well, with students settling into their routine very quickly. Junior students are excited about their practical work and we have included practical assessments for all years.

There are significant changes in the science syllabus and we are very excited and looking forward to teaching the new contents.

At present we are busy preparing science booklets for all classes. These booklets are used both as class work as well as home work. Parents are encouraged to make sure that these booklets are completed and returned to the teachers, for marking.

We have started the UMAT preparation classes for medical entrance test nice and early. Classes are being conducted every Friday afternoon for an hour and half. A number of students from year 11 and year 12 are taking giving up their time to join the class. Well done boys!

Ms. Diwakar—Science Head Teacher, Relieving
HSIE

The HSIE Department is looking forward to an exciting and productive 2014 that has already begun well. All students in HSIE courses are working productively in their first semester subjects and are highly focused on their studies. This year sees the implementation of the New South Wales Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum, in all Mandatory Subjects. In HSIE, Years 7 and 9 History are currently studying the new course, with Years 8 and 10 commencing in 2015. This is an exciting time for both teachers and students in this subject area.

This year sees a number of opportunities for HSIE Students to employ their skills in various extracurricular activities pertaining to HSIE. Students of Legal studies will be participating in a visit to court to enhance their understanding of the various procedures used in the Legal system. Senior Geographers will carry out field studies as will the Year 10 Geographers who will focus on our local area in their field work. A visit to Taronga Zoo and The Australian Maritime Museum are also impending excursions for the second semester.

Following many successful years in the Stock Market Game, students will once again be participating in this competition and hopefully once again will gain pleasing results. The Stock Market game has always been popular with students and is an interactive method of gaining insight into the workings of the Stock Exchange.

Work Placement is an integral part of the Business Studies course, where students have the opportunity to experience a functioning working environment and all the duties that are carried out in this environment. Both students of Year 11 and 12 Work Placement will be participating in this compulsory experience.

All students in HSIE subjects will be receiving information outlining their assessments and the topics they will be studying this year. This is a valuable tool for students to plan and organise their study time and to help ensure all tasks are completed on time, this means all students can utilise their time and perform to the best of their ability, contributing to a successful year in HSIE and all other subjects. The HSIE Staff look forward to the teaching year ahead.

PDHPE

Another busy program is anticipated as we kick off the 2014 school year. The Personal Development, Health and Physical Education department, in conjunction with our extensive Sports Program on offer, will be setting many challenges and opportunities for fun and achievement.

This year the PDHPE faculty will run numerous courses including: 7-10 PDHPE / 9 & 10 Elective PASS / 2 unit Elective SLR (Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation) in years 11&12 / 2 Unit PDHPE in years 11 & 12.

These courses are designed to cater for a range of interests and abilities across the spectrum of PDHPE. Inherent in the elective courses are a range of extra curricula activities, which may include: a 3 day outdoor recreation camp to Tea Gardens Bush Camp / kayaking and SUP in Rose Bay / par 3 and full course golf / ice skating / ten pin bowling / aquatics / orienteering / rock climbing / spin cycling / surf awareness / pilates / yoga etc.

All students for all subjects should have in their possession an assessment schedule for their subject. Students are expected to apply themselves to all set tasks and present original work. The boys are also expected to be prepared for all lessons. This applies particularly to practical lessons, where they need to have a sports shirt, shorts and track shoes. Core fitness, fitness testing and minor games will be the main focus in term one for the PDHPE course and the boys should be mindful of personal hygiene, including deodorant, etc.

Mr. Kentwell - PDHPE Staff
Creative Arts

2013 was a year of many successes for the Creative Arts faculty. HSC results continue to reflect the commitment of students and teachers. Congratulations to the boys on their achievements.

Music results were similarly successful and again the hard work of Ms Lee and the students should be acknowledged. Following the success of our Creative Arts showcase evening in 2013, this will be an important event for the beginning of term 3 for year 12.

The gallery space in A block is a focus of artworks by students and parents are invited to enjoy the achievements of James Cook Boys when visiting the school. This is a changing exhibition and highlights both the quality of our students and the quality of our teaching staff. Past and present exhibitions can be viewed on the School Website.

At times during the year some boys may need to be given work in Music that does not involve listening to music for cultural obligations. As Music is a mandatory subject in Year 7 and 8, parents will need to contact the school to advise the Principal of the students’ requirements before the time. Every effort is made within the curriculum to respect all students’ beliefs and individual needs within the requirements of the Board of Studies.

Students will participate this year in a number of excursions that support and enhance classroom learning. It is important for students to engage in these activities as well as the allocated learning time. We ask parents to encourage students to value these learning experiences. Being prepared for class with correct equipment and completing homework and assessment tasks are also important learning tools in successful learning as both create positive habits of engagement.

A Visual Art Process Diary – There are limited numbers available through the school for $4 A4 size and $10 for senior books.

2B and 4B pencils

All equipment can be also purchased through stores such as Officeworks.

For health reasons students are asked to bring their own ear buds for Music these can also be purchased at Officeworks.

The Arts are part of the fabric of society. They enhance tolerance and understanding across cultures. Studying Visual Art, Music, Drama or Dance encourages creative thinking and problem solving, cooperation and focus. The learning we deliver at James Cook Boys Technology High School is the NSW Board of Studies Syllabus. Our teachers are experienced and highly skilled in their respective disciplines as well as in current education practice. Parents can support students learning though encouraging the boys to complete homework, have the correct equipment and developing a joy for learning.

Please contact the school if there are concerns or issues that may prevent your son from participating in these mandatory subjects in Yr 7 & 8.

Ms Rae—Creative Arts Department

Library

Staff changes:

There have been some staff changes in the Library this term. Ms Davoren is back again at James Cook BHS replacing Mr Chung who has taken some leave this term. Ms Newman joins the Library replacing Mrs Dunn who has taken a transfer to a school closer to home. Both Ms Davoren and Ms Newman have experience working in a number of school libraries and looking forward to working with the students at James Cook BHS, assisting students with assignment work and learning needs.

New Resources:

The Library has a range of new resources available for borrowing. These include fiction books as well as magazines and curriculum related books.

Chess:

The library now has a number of Chess sets that are available for students to use in the Library before school and at recess and lunchtime. The students are making use of this opportunity to develop skills playing against each other.
In the Italian classroom we love our food!!!

The Y8 students recently learnt about and then enjoyed eating Panettone cakes that Mrs Papanikolaou and Mrs Alibrio donated. Panettone is a type of sweet bread loaf originally from Milan, Italy. Panettone is usually prepared and enjoyed for Christmas and New Year in Italy. In recent years however it has become a popular addition to other special celebrations not only in Italy but also around the world.

In Italy the panettone comes with an often varied history and the origins of this delicious cake with the distinctive fluffy characteristics are not clear. One of the many legends attributes the invention of this delicious cake to a 15th-century nobleman falconer Ughetto Atellani, who loved Adalgisa, the daughter of a poor baker named Toni. To help her, the nobleman disguised himself as a baker and invented a rich cake to which he added flour and yeast, butter, eggs, dried raisins, and candied lemon and orange peel. The duke of Milan, Ludovico il Moro Sforza (1452–1508), agreed to the marriage, which was held in the presence of Leonardo da Vinci, and encouraged the launch of the new bread-like cake: Pan de Toni (or Toni's cake).

Mrs Papanikolaou—Languages Department

Year 8 enjoying their Pan de Toni
Greetings to all our students and families.

We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and are refreshed for another school year.

The Technology and Applied Studies Faculty welcomes Mr. M. Beeston to our school. Mr. Beeston brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our school. He will be teaching the Year 11 Timber class, as well as Year 8 Technology and year 9 and 10 TAS elective classes.

I have noticed teachers and students have settled in well in the first few weeks of the year and I am confident we will have a happy and productive 2014.

Mr Barnes - TAS Faculty.

Music

This year has commenced with a number of students wishing to learn to play a wide variety of musical instruments. It is such an enjoyable experience to watch students from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages practice their instruments and sing together in a variety of performing ensembles. There is an impressive range in musical ability at our school and many students from years 7 and 8 are encouraged to learn to play the piano, guitar and drums as well as other instruments such as the clarinet and saxophone. A musical items is being organized for Open Night which will take place on Tuesday 25 February. Any student who wishes to learn to play a musical instrument is encouraged to approach Ms Lee in order to organize lessons.

St George Special School

At the end of last year Ms Lee and students from James Cook Boys Technology High School presented a disco for the students from St George Special School. It occurred at lunchtime during the last week of term 4 and was a wonderful experience for everyone who attended. A large group of James Cook Boys High students walked down to St George Special School and then wheeled the visiting student to our school hall. Exciting music was amplified throughout the hall and our wonderful students wheeled our visitors around the school hall in time with the music. The hall was littered with decorations and our visitors refused to leave until we promised another disco later this year. It was a lovely afternoon for everyone!

International Students

We are celebrating the brilliant HSC results of Shuai (Roy) Shao, an international student who was dux of yr 12 in the HSC. In spite of commencing his academic studies at our school in February 2011, he managed to score an excellent result in all his subjects and is now waiting to commence his studies at university. We all wish his the best of luck with all his academic studies.

It was sad to see two other yr 12 international students leave school last year after completing their HSC studies. Ruhan Gu and Jonathan Tran were extremely well-mannered and sensible students who were very popular with their teachers and peers. Our school wishes them good luck with all their future plans.

At the beginning of this year we were delighted to welcome two new international students, Tommy Miao (a year 11 student who is learning to speak three languages) and Markus Wong (year 10) who have already impressed all their teachers and classmates with their friendliness and determined academic ambitions. We all wish them the very best of luck with their studies at our school.
JCBHS International students enjoying Sydney
Step up 2014

In 2014 the year 7 students of James Cook Boys’ will participate in the second year of the Step Up program which will run across terms 1, 2 and 3.

The purpose of Step Up is to teach students a range of skills to deal positively and proactively with life experiences, in an environment that is supported by positive relationships with their peers and Step Up leaders. Research has shown that when students form close connections with their peers they are more likely to have a satisfying and successful school experience.

Every student in Year 7 has been placed into a small group of 6 or 7 for this program. Within this group they will work through a series of activities lead by their two Year 10 Step Up leaders. These Leaders, who were trained though the Peer Support program in 2013, have demonstrated a keen interest in ensuring that school life is a positive experience for all students of James Cook Boys’.

Each fortnight the leaders will meet for one period with their Year 7 students. Here the leaders will assist the Year 7 students in becoming familiar and confident with our school, their peers, their teachers and new routines, while also helping them to develop a sense of self worth and belonging at our school.

As the Step Up program continues into terms 2 and 3 it will encourage Year 7 to take responsibility for their decisions and actions and also provide a fun but thought provoking environment to address issues such as bullying, relationships, coping with adversity and self image.

Throughout the course of the year you can support your child by asking them about the ideas and activities they have dealt with during the Step Up program. This will help them to develop a positive connection between school and home and ensure that the activities in the program are meaningful and put into practice.

If you have any questions regarding the Step Up program please contact the school on 9587 1770.

Ms Cork — Step Up Coordinator 2014

The Year 10 Step Up Leaders for 2014:

Billy Haider
Youssef Sheeth
Cameron Mason
Hussein Khanafer
Billy Zahr
Hassan Taoube
Sid Lamichhane
Liam Dilworth
Dion Paraskevopoulos
David Baker
Sean Lim
Congratulations to HSC Students 2013

I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students on achieving very pleasing results in the 2013 Higher School Certificate. For the majority of our students, they have indeed achieved personal best results due to the hard work which so many of them displayed over their senior years in Years 11 and 12.

A special congratulation must go to Shuai Shao, for being a top achiever for Mathematics Extension I and Extension 2, an outstanding achievement. Shuai is an International student from China who joined our school in 2011 to become the dux in Year 12 with 96.4 ATAR results due to his commendable effort and great determination. He is indeed a great example of perseverance and determination.

I would also like to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of the following students who have also achieved Band 6 results (The top band in the HSC): Jamie Kantarovski, Shubhamkumar Prajapati, Mohammad Fakih, Hussein Dakdouk. Congratulations to these dedicated and diligent young men.

It was wonderful to see many of our students sharing their achievement and their plan for the future with their teachers upon the release of the HSC.

Once again congratulations to all students and their hard working parents. I wish them well for their future studies at university or with their employment.

M. Loutfy — Year 12 Adviser - 2013
Cooks' Watch

Careers

The end of 2013 did not slow down for James Cook boys with our 2014 year 12 students attending University of Western Sydney - Parramatta campus, and a select group of creative students attending JMC Academy.

University of Western Sydney Excursion

Our visit to UWS required the students to register and commit to a variety of break-out sessions of their choice, along with time to explore the campus and enjoy a lunch provided by the university. This day has generated an opportunity for the students to start thinking about university and how these institutions operate, what options and expectations are needed to further their tertiary education. The boys represented James Cook in an appropriate manner and ended the day with an eagerness to experience different universities. 2014 will see a few more opportunities for students to visit universities during school time but more so in their own, as not to interfere with their studies during this vital final year of studies. Open dates for various universities will be advertised around the school, however the best way to ‘keep track’ of events are being held is to regularly visit the university web sites.

JMC Academy Excursion

Below is a recount of the excursion thankfully provided by Harry Maidiotis (yr 10 in 2013)

In the morning of the 6th of December, a group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students took a train to the JMC Academy in the city. The whole idea of this excursion was to widen the views of the students on what they want to do in life and what university they’d like to go to. The academy focuses on music production, game design and film and television.

When we first arrived to the academy, we were put into a large room with speakers on the walls and a music control box in the centre. The staff basically explained to us what this room is and what it’s used for. The room was made completely sound-proof so that when they’re recording, there is no sound interference from outside. They were able to achieve this through placing large pads on the walls so that the sounds are absorbed instead of bouncing around. Once they explained all the stuff in the room, we were able to create our own fake radio station. The radio station was called JCB FM and it talked about most of the average things you’d hear at a school such as excursions, canteen offers etc.

During the first half of the day, we were more focused on music production and sound design. We even went through some explanations on the software used to compose music pieces.

After around midday, we were then taken to the game design and animation room. Here, we learned about the different types of work that students undergo in this subject. The teacher in charge explained to us the processes of drawing, animating and 3D modelling. We had a bit of Q and A after his presentation, and then we went to the next area of study.

Film and Television was the next place we went to, and probably the most fun by the opinions of the students. We were in a studio with a green screen, studio cameras and studio lights. Our task was to play Celebrity Heads but as if we are recording it on live television. It was pretty fun, and everyone had a turn on the set and the control room.

At the end of the day, we were given a book with details on how to get into the academy. If you didn’t attend the excursion, you can still find out more about it online.
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Thank you to Mrs Blatchford and Ms Dauter for organising/ attending the excursion.
Welcome back to another exciting year for James Cook and learning about possible career options. Week 3 saw the beginning of Career Education classes for year 10. I have planned to see each of the classes one period every week. These classes have started with a focus on preparing students for the compulsory Work Experience program scheduled for Term 3 Week 9. It may seem a little early to start discussing the program however good and early preparation is the key to a successful ‘real life’ working experience, which students can take with them beyond school.

Year 12 students have been invited on an excursion in May to the Sydney Morning Herald HSC and Careers Expo at Moore Park. This is a great opportunity for students to access over 120 exhibitors and numerous mini seminars relating to the HSC and Careers. The expo runs over 4 days (Thursday through to Sunday), this enables students to return over the weekend and also for parents and carers to attend. Visit [http://www.hscandcareers.com.au](http://www.hscandcareers.com.au/) for more information regarding exhibitors and seminar details. I will also be commencing individual interviews with year 12 during week 4 to support and guide them in their decisions beyond school.

James Cook is also offering students in year 10, 11 and 12 the opportunity to obtain an OH&S Construction White Card. The induction course will be held at school on Monday 7 April, I have a maximum of 20 positions with a $51 cost to students, the school will subsidies the remaining cost for the facilitator. Students can get an excursion note from me in the Careers Office.

Why do people need a White Card?

If you are interested in starting work in the construction industry, it is important that you obtain your white card. You must obtain your white card before commencing work on a construction site. These rules apply to students undertaking TAFE course in the variety of areas in the construction industry. James Cook students have the opportunity to do ‘Get Into Vet’ and TVET courses that require them to have a White Card. Year 10 students are also able to do work experience in the construction industry, only if they have a White Card.

During this term I will be attending University Careers Adviser Days where I learn about the success of each institution, new courses that are being offered, different pathway options into university, and the support networks that are available to students. I will be putting together individual newsletters outlining the day’s events. This will be email to students in year 10, 11 and 12, with hard copies available from the Library and Careers Office.

I'm looking forward to working with you and your sons in developing a plan for their career journey. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me through the school.

Mrs Blatchford - Careers Advisor

**SRC - Ms. Diwakar**

The new SRC members have been selected for 2014 and I am very pleased about the interest shown by junior students to be part of the team. Well done boys! Great to have you all on the team; this term we will be celebrating ‘Harmony Day’ and are in the process of organising the activities for the day.

SRC members are also planning to organise an ‘Anti Bullying’ day for the whole school, with workshops, sporting events and a sausage sizzle.

We are all looking forward to a very productive year, with SRC members actively taking part in fundraising and in organising the multicultural day with the expert help from the music department.
Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the entire school community for the 2014 school year. I hope you all enjoyed your holidays!

I would like to extend a special welcome to all our New Year 7 students and their families and wish them all the very best as they start their academic journey at JCBHS, exciting times are ahead!

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our Christmas raffle which was drawn on Presentation Day last year. Congratulations to the five winners! The P & C also held a raffle on the last day of school for all the staff. The prize was a fruit box that was kindly donated by Uncle Tony's Fruit Barn and it was won by Ms Papanikolaou! The total amount raised from the two raffles was $325.00! A special thank you goes to the students who helped sell the tickets at school, well done boys, you all did a fantastic job!

I would like to remind everyone that the P & C Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month and are held in the staff common room. Families will be notified via SMS on the morning of the meeting and as well as the Friday prior to the meeting.

**Our next meeting on 3rd March is our Annual General Meeting.**

At this meeting all office bearer positions are declared vacant and therefore, available for election. Only financial P & C members are eligible to stand for a position.

Having a P & C Association at JCBHS enables parents and citizens to meet together to determine the needs and aspirations of the whole school community so I extend an invitation to all our parents to attend a meeting in the future.

The dates for 2014 are as follows:

**Term 1**
- Monday 3rd March (Week 6) - AGM for 2014
- Monday 7th April (Week 11)

**Term 2**
- Monday 5th May (Week 2)
- Monday 2nd June (Week 6)

**Term 3**
- Monday 4th August (Week 4)
- Monday 1st September (Week 8)

**Term 4**
- Monday 3rd November (Week 5)
- Monday 1st December (Week 9)

Our first fundraiser for 2014 will be a raffle held in April and the prizes will be baskets filled with chocolate!

Margaret Paraskevopoulos  P & C President – Figen Dormanli Secretary – Willaim Siafakas Treasurer.

**Administration News**

James Cook Boys High School is a uniform school so please ensure that your son is in full correct school uniform every day. The school uniform is available only from Lowes at Rockdale Plaza.

During the past week you should have received a package from the school with an invoice for your sons’ school fees, information regarding sports fees and a page to update your family contact details. School fees are now due and are required to be paid. Also enclosed was a credit card authority form so that you can pay the school fees off over Term 1 and Term 2. Please take the time to read all of the information in the package and return the contact information sheet to the school as soon as possible. It is vital for the school to update information regarding parent/caregivers contact details. This information can change and often parents forget to tell the school of the new details but we need to keep the information up to date in case we need to contact a students’ parent in case of sickness or injury.
All students are required to sign into school if they are late or have permitted late starts. Students must sign in so that they are recorded as being on school premises.

Students must report to the Front Office to sign in and give their sign in slip to the class teacher. If a student is late they must bring a note from their parent with the reason they are late or bring in the second slip they are given when they sign in back to the front office signed by their parent and with a reason for their absence. Students who are absent from school are required to bring a note from their parent with the reason for their absence upon their return.

Parents, students and teachers are concerned when students fall behind in their studies because of long absences. Families who plan to travel are encouraged to travel during school holidays. Parents are reminded that they must seek permission from the Principal to take a student out of school during term time. If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time, please make an appointment to discuss your plans with the Principal.

The Principal has information to assist families to plan holidays that are least disruptive to their children’s schooling. Parents planning to travel may apply to the Principal for 15 extra days approved leave.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Front Office – we are always happy to assist.

Ms Judi Seggi—Administration

Year 8—engaged and working well in their English classes.