Talent Quest stars shine!

Months of preparation by singers, dancers and instrumentalists resulted in a very successful annual Talent Quest last week. Year 12 students set a high standard with a number of performances. Congratulations to all the performers for their outstanding efforts.

Thank you to Ms Dennis and Ms Benjamin for giving so much time for rehearsals and planning which allowed the show to really highlight our talented student performers.
New kitchen passes the taste test

Our new kitchen facilities proved their worth when they were officially opened by the local State Member, Dr Andrew MacDonald.

Year 11 Hospitality students, guided by teacher and chef Ms Gabriel, used the new equipment to prepare a huge array of hors d’oeuvres and sweets for staff and invited guests.

The new kitchens will provide our students with industry-standard resources for vocational training in hospitality and catering.

Construction work improves our learning facilities

Over the past months, a huge amount of building work has been going on at James Meehan High. As some projects are completed, new upgrades are just starting.

Our Language Centre (Block 10), built under the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution program, is now completed and functioning as a learning space for 7X and 8X. It has an Interactive Whiteboard and videoconference facilities for online teaching.

During the July school vacation, three faculties moved to new staffrooms and took over new teaching areas in the school. The top level of Block 8 was refurbished to accommodate the Wingara Unit, and a new classroom space was built into the lower level of Block 7.

Over the next month, an intensive period of construction will see the upgrading of three Science laboratories, to bring our Science teaching facilities into the twenty-first century.

Students and staff are coping well with the many temporary room changes that have been put in place during this construction period.
HSC course deadlines this term!

All our HSC students are approaching the end of their coursework, with Trial exams in week 4, and final assessment tasks due. Students must ensure that all assessment work is submitted if they are to successfully complete their courses.

Many of our Year 12 students preparing for the HSC have practical course components that make up a significant proportion of their HSC examination results.

Students preparing for Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Industrial Technology should be in the final stages of completing their practical projects. Many students are making good progress, while others need to really increase their efforts urgently.

These projects are due in the next few weeks and there can be no extensions of time. The first examiners from the Board of Studies will be in the school before September.

If you have a student doing one of these courses, please monitor their progress and allow them to do as much work at home as possible.

Drama and Dance showcase evening

A Dance and Drama night in Glenquarie Community Centre towards the end of Term 2 showcased the achievements of elective performing arts students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Year 12 Drama students performed their HSC items as works-in-progress, while Year 9 and Year 11 dancers showed the great progress they had made in the first semester of their new elective course. A large group of parents and friends showed their appreciation for the hard work put in by the performers and by Ms Benjamin our Drama teacher, and Ms Dennis our Dance teacher.

Art and design classes for kids, teens and adults. Children's classes on Saturdays during school term.
Call 0429443229 or visit our website www.heffalumpdezign.com.au
What impact does graffiti have on your child, your family and your community?

These questions and others are explored in a graffiti awareness presentation that will be made to year 8, 9 & 10 students attending schools throughout the Macquarie Fields area.

Funded by Department of Human Services, Housing NSW, Building Stronger Communities Macquarie Fields, this program has been developed by Warner Group’s, Awareness Education Division, to inform, educate and deter “would be” taggers with a creative education approach.

This approach involves an interactive, entertaining presentation with the aim of involving your child in thinking about and discovering the impacts of graffiti, with a focus on the criminal aspects. (It is illegal when a person damages or defaces private and public places without the property owner’s permission).

Ultimately, it provides them with an understanding of the social and economic costs of vandalism to them and the community.

**How can you help?**

1. **Talk to your child** about graffiti and their understanding of the issues surrounding illegal graffiti, this type off program is enhanced when it is reinforced at home.

2. **Seek further information or report graffiti by contacting:**
   - Campbelltown City Council - www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au
   - Graffiti Removal Hotline 4645 4966
   - Police Assistance Line 131 444
   - Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

3. **Encourage your children** to become involved in the many programs and activities available to them within your community.

**Community agencies supporting youth**

Uniting Care Burnside 4628 3199, Youth Off the Streets 4620 8912, The Junction Works 9605 9278

**To report graffiti call the Tell on a Tagger hotline on 4645 4966**