Half-yearly Reports

Half Yearly Reports are now available for parents and carers to collect at the school office.

If you are unable to collect the report in person, phone the office between 8.30am—3.20pm on 9605 4385 to arrange delivery.

Teachers prepare detailed reports on every student’s progress twice a year. We encourage parents to read these reports closely and discuss them with their students.

If you would like to discuss your child’s progress with teachers or the Year Adviser, you can also make an appointment through the school office.

Pasifika pride as new garden opens

James Meehan High is rightly proud of the contribution made by our Pacific Islands students to the life and culture of the school.

On 30 July our Pasifika Garden was officially opened with a formal ceremony attended by 150 parents, community members, students and teachers representing the Pacific nationalities within the school. The garden will be a permanent recognition of our Pasifika communities and includes a traditional cooking pit which was originally dug and used for our men’s meeting in February this year.

The completed garden is the result of extensive planning and landscaping work undertaken by our school gardener, Mr Dan Cox, with cultural guidance from our Pacific Islander Community Liaison Officer Mr Fou Atonio, and energetic support from our Deputy Mr Wawszkowicz.

With cooperation from our students and community Mr Atonio organised a great display of cultural performances for the opening event, and parents provided a wonderful array of refreshments for morning tea.
I-Track students impress mentors

I-Track is a workplace mentoring program that is conducted largely through online chat sessions and funded by The Smith Family. A number of Year 12 students recently attended an I-Track face to face meeting with their mentors. After their visit, Louise Boyle from the Smith Family sent Mrs Taylor the following letter:

Good Morning Gail,

I just wanted to let you know what a credit to your school, the ITrack students were last week when they attended their face 2 face meeting with their mentors. They were the talk of the event! At the mentor debrief meeting afterwards, mentors of students from both James Meehan and other schools commented on how lovely they were, and how lovely they looked in their uniforms. One mentor with a student from another school said “I don’t know what I was expecting, but it wasn’t that. Those kids could have been from any private school in Sydney”.

I’ve just come from another meeting and they were the talk again!

These young people have gone a long way to changing the perceptions of a number of people. I feel so proud of them!

Kind regards,
Louise

Our debating students from Years 8-11 attended the final of the Premier’s Debating Challenge in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney. It was an excellent opportunity for our students to see what is required at the top level of high school debating in NSW.

Debaters at University of Sydney

Thank you to the Macarthur Chronicle.

Former top cop inspires young

MORONEY TELLS STUDENTS TO BE PROUD

Dennis Clough

FORMER police commissioner Ken Moroney shared some advice — and some pride in the Macarthur region — with students at James Meehan High School on Tuesday.

Mr Moroney, who served as commissioner of the state’s 20,000-strong police force from 2002 to 2007, spoke at the Macquarie Fields high school as part of the Macarthur Chronicle’s Inspire campaign.

The campaign was started after the Rosemeadow riots in 2009 and involves prominent people to speak at local high schools to counter negative portrayals of the Macarthur region.

Mr Moroney, who lives in Woodbine and grew up in a housing commission house in Villawood, told students from years 8, 9 and 10 they should be proud of where they live. He challenged the students to consider what James Meehan — the pioneer after whom the school was named — would think of the school and the community.

“The father and grandfather encouraged the students to have respect for themselves, each other, their parents, and their teachers and to make the most of their lives. “Your greatest challenge at this time is to see the opportunities in the classroom, on the sporting field, in the home and in the community, recognise them and make the most of them,” he said.

His message cut through with year 8 student Mateo Aifio, who said he was proud to call Macquarie Fields home and hoped to become a physical education teacher.

Mr Moroney said he hoped to instil a sense of pride in the students through his speech.

“The greatest asset the Macarthur region has is its people,” he said.

Mr Moroney, who grew up in Villawood and lives in Woodbine, tells students at the Macquarie Fields High School to be proud of their area and make most of their lives.

See more pictures of Ken Moroney’s Inspire visit:
macarthurchronicle.com.au
Year 7 and primary schools work together to support literacy

During Education Week I was proud to be part of a special Literacy program which involved James Meehan High, Guise PS, Curran PS and Macquarie Fields PS. Twenty Year 7 students were chosen and being troopers, willingly walked to each Primary school over a period of three days and read with Year 2 students the lovely tale of “Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley”. After reading they lead their group in a mini lesson on six-word stories and assisted the Year 2 students in creating their very own stories. For each Primary school the students’ stories will be judged and the best from each school presented at a special event during Literacy and Numeracy week.

On the Wednesday we visited Guise Primary where eighteen bright-eyed Year 2 students were waiting. The Year 7 cohort was a bit nervous, as it was their very first visit, but partnered up and performed beautifully. On the next day is was time to go to Curran Primary. This time it was twenty eight Year 2 students waiting and the reading groups spread out between classrooms and outside. At the end of our visit we received a lovely round of applause from the Year 2 students which the Year 7 students reciprocated enthusiastically. Last visit was a massive task with us walking all the way to Macquarie Fields Primary. Once we arrived there was no time to catch our breath as seventy (!) Year 2 students were gathered, placed in groups of 3 or 4 each and sent off with one Year 7 student to their areas. By this time the Year 7 students knew what was required and took on the task with confidence.

Within the visits I have seen our students work with patience, enthusiasm and maturity. They should truly be proud of themselves and how they represented our school. This is just another demonstration of the quality of students from James Meehan High.

Thank you to Guise PS, Curran PS and Macquarie Fields PS staff and Year 2 students for their wonderfully warm welcome and hospitality. It was a true joy to visit each of the schools. Here is looking forward to more similar collaboration in the future.

Cassandra Le-Grand
Literacy and Numeracy Support
Year 7 2013 Advisor

What the students said:

Guise PS
Year 2:
Achilles - "It was good and the boys were funny and nice"
Leata - "I feel very good, I like to sit down and read a book like Charlie Parsley"
Shiane - "I like the story and I like Year 7"

Year 7:
Damien - "They were smart and good readers"
Esther - "They were fun to read with"
Mohammed - "Zac and I had a great time"

Curran PS
Year 7:
Alex - "They were really good speakers"
Kolin - "It was fun, cool and exciting"
Joel - "I liked going to help the kids to read and to make a difference"

Macquarie Fields PS:
Year 2:
Alvin - "I liked that James Meehan came to help us"
Koli - "Joel helped me with everything"
Neha - "I enjoyed James Meehan coming and reading with us"

Year 7:
Robert - "They were cool, funny and awesome"
Kiara M - "They enjoyed it, they made me laugh and they were fantastic"
Monica - "They were quiet readers, they loved reading and they were fun to play with"
Security and environmental improvements underway at James Meehan High

With the provision of a major grant from the Commonwealth Government, work has recently started on significant upgrades to the security of James Meehan High School.

For the first time since the school opened, a full perimeter fence is to be built around the property, bringing our school up to the standard of many other school sites around Sydney. A new security gate at the Harold Street car park entrance will improve public and student safety by restricting pedestrian access to the driveway.

These upgrades will provide strengthened security for students and staff during the school day. They will also allow us to open up additional areas of the playground for students during breaks, and will give students increased access to the James Meehan Park playing fields adjoining the school.

As the external fences are completed, security barriers within the school grounds are being removed to provide a more welcoming environment for our students.

To further improve the appearance of the school, our gardener Dan Cox has been undertaking major landscaping projects, transforming our grounds and courtyards with new garden areas, shrubs and additional play areas and seating for students.

The Federal grant will also fund additional CCTV cameras to continuously monitor the security of school property.

Once completed, these security improvements and extensive landscaping works will transform the physical environment of James Meehan High and provide benefits for all our students for years to come.