Flying high at Links to Learning

Students in the Links to Learning program recently had the opportunity to challenge themselves by attempting the trapeze at the Sydney Trapeze School.

Links to Learning (LTL) Program is run by Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative and James Meehan High. The program aims to improve student’s ability to connect with their school and the community, and to help them reach their own potential. In essence LTL uses fun programs, in an informal educational setting to develop life skills, self esteem and self-confidence.

The program works with sixteen students from Years 9-10 at James Meehan High, who meet one day a week during school term to participate in group based activities as well as individual literacy support.

The individual and small group activities focus on ensuring that computer access is available to allow students to complete homework and assignments.

Throughout the year students are given the opportunity to attend excursions to places such as the Sydney Trapeze School to build self confidence and the Powerhouse Museum where students participate in a multimedia workshop.

The success of the Links to Learning program is due to a combined effort between program staff, local schools, the students themselves as well as local community groups and businesses who generously offer their support. We strongly believe that working together is the best way to ensure positive outcomes for each young person.

*Carmen Fox & Tom McDonald*

*If you would like to find out more about the Links to Learning Program, please contact Ms Vujcic, JMHS Transition Adviser.*
Volleyball at JMHS

Both the Girls' and Boys' teams have enjoyed great success in their respective knockout games in the past few weeks.

The boys' team, capably captained by Dester Tulaga, won through to the next round of the competition by beating Fairvale H.S at their home court. The boys played well and were convincing winners, taking just 4 sets to gain victory.

The girls’ team won their long awaited game against Liverpool Girls High School. The girls dominated the match and were never threatened by the inexperienced Liverpool team. The girls now qualify to play against Sarah Redfern H.S in the next round.

Good luck to both teams for the rest of the year.

Mr Frangipane

HT PDHPE

The team members are:

Boys
- Dester Tulaga
- Jared Gasu
- Junior Fiapito
- Jonathan Leuea
- Ryan Bradshaw
- Nathan Dumont
- Mema Taele
- Jim Jay Aloese
- Sean Luttrell
- Kennethy Tulaga

Girls
- Nikolina Radmanovic
- Renee Pugh
- Lani Gasu
- Dalal Hayek
- Gardenia Prendergast
- Gloria Toomalatai
- Manly Boutkaska
- Rookshana Tautaiolefue

P&C supports JMHS

Bunnings Community barbecue

The James Meehan High School P&C held a very successful barbecue fundraiser at Bunnings Crossroads on 6 June. The event raised $939 which will be used to provide additional resources for students. The P&C would like to thank the community members and teachers who assisted on the day.

McDonalds Fun Day - 23rd June

The next fundraising event will be a Fun Day at Glenquarie McDonalds on Wednesday 23 June, from 6-8pm. All profits during that time will be donated to the school. The P&C would love to see you there to support our school and help raise additional funds.

Urgent note for parents

If you require your child to go home early, please contact the front office by writing a note or telephoning the school. Your child will be found and able to leave the school.

Please, do not text message your child telling them to go home. We need to speak to a parent/carer before allowing a student to leave the school. No child will be sent home unless confirmation is received from parent/guardian at the front office.

Parents, we must also have your updated phone numbers. If we cannot contact carer/parent the student will not be sent home.

JMHS Administration
Student laptops - keep them safe

A message to students, parents and carers regarding the maintenance of the Digital Education Revolution (DER) laptops.

In late 2009, before receiving their NSW Digital Education Revolution (DER) laptops, Year 9 students and their parent or carer signed a copy of the LAPTOP USER CHARTER. This charter states, among other things, that students are responsible for taking care of the device.

Following is a section quoted from the LAPTOP USER CHARTER regarding damage or loss of equipment.

2.2 Damage or loss of equipment

2.2.1 All laptops and batteries are covered by a manufacturer’s warranty. The warranty covers manufacturer’s defects and normal use of the laptop. It does not cover negligence, abuse or malicious damage.

2.2.2 Any problems, vandalism, damage, loss or theft of the laptop must be reported immediately to the school.

2.2.3 In the case of suspected theft a police report must be made by the family and an event number provided to the school.

2.2.4 In the case of loss or accidental damage, a witnessed statutory declaration signed by a parent/carer should be provided.

2.2.5 Laptops that are damaged or lost by neglect, abuse or malicious act, may require reimbursement. The Principal will determine whether replacement is appropriate and/or whether or not the student is responsible for repair or replacement costs and whether or not the student retains access to a laptop for home use.

2.2.6 Students will be required to replace lost or damaged chargers.

A recent area of concern has been broken screens (see picture). The cost to repair this type of damage is approximately $300.00, and if it is deemed that the damage was caused due to the student’s negligence, the cost will need to be borne by the student’s parent or carer.

It is strongly recommended that students be very careful of the LCD screen and other parts of the device when using or transporting their laptops, eg. careful storage when bags are stored for practical lessons or sport.

John Farr
Technical Support Officer
James Meehan High School
Debating Trials

Debating is back at JMHS for 2010! Last year we entered our school's first ever team in the Premier's Debating Challenge, Australia’s largest debating competition, where our Junior team managed to get one victory.

For 2010 we have two teams entered - a Junior team (Yrs 7-8) and an Intermediate team (Yrs 9-10). From a strong field of applicants we selected two quality groups. The Intermediate team contains members from last year’s Junior team. They are Aymen Helwe, Sarafeana Milford, Jo-Anne Willot and Alexia Fauvette-Brown. The Junior team is comprised of Stephanie Rushmer, Skye Campbell, Christine Ly, Aiesha Collins-Ali and Ashley Ryan.

Though the Junior team members are all Year 7 students, they have significant public speaking experience and may just surprise a few opponents this year.

In the coming months, the Intermediate team will be debating against Beverly Hills Girls High School and Liverpool Boys High School - both strong debating schools. The Junior team will face Eagle Vale High School and Elderslie High School.

Congratulations to the students who made the debating teams, and good luck!

Mr Wawszkowicz
Head Teacher English

Library writing competition

The Library is running a writing competition again this year in which students may enter a Poetry Section or a Short Story Writing Section. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in both Sections and Certificates for all entries. Closing date for all entries is the last day of Term 2.

We already have several individual entries in progress and I must thank three teachers, Ms Dennis, Mrs. Barrett and Ms Potter, who have told me their entire classes will enter.

Please encourage students to participate by coming to the Library to see the posters for inspiration, to collect an entry form and to seek advice about their draft writing.

Ms LLOYD
JMHS Librarian

More high-flyers at Trapeze School
Our students take up the Challenge

Students of James Meehan from year 7 to 12 will once again have an opportunity to be a part of the Premiers Sporting Challenge, an initiative by State government where the common purpose is to have more students, more active, more of the time!

The Premier's Sporting Challenge aims to engage young people in sport and physical activity and encourages them to lead healthy, active lifestyles. A special consideration has been given to all the students of year 7.

Every Thursday and Friday the Year 7 students start their day with physical activity in the mornings for 20 minutes, they will also compete in sports such as Soccer, Touch, and Basketball during recess and lunch time against other classes. We wish the students of year 7 to make the most of this opportunity given to them by engaging and improving their way of life and having a positive effect on their overall growth and development.

As a part of Premier Sporting Challenge, recess and lunch time competition competitions have started. Teams from Years 12, 11, 10, 9 and teachers are competing in the ongoing Indoor soccer competition. Year 12 have been successful in defeating the staff and Year 11 students and the lead the round robin competition.

Sean Luttrell, Jared Gasu, Manly, Jonathan, Nikolina, Nathan and their other team members have taken this year’s indoor competition very seriously to overcome the dominance of the staff team in many years. The staffs need to come with all the tricks to stop the year 12’s insurgence. The Year 11’s with the presence of Jim Jay in their team can always turn things around. A few more rounds to go and it will be interesting to see who emerges as the winners.

Year 7 Uniform

To encourage students to wear their full school uniform every day, Mr Wawszkowicz is keeping a tally of each Year 7 roll call class with school uniform. Ms Martsoukos’ roll call is currently leading, followed closely by Ms Barrett’s 7S class.

The uniform by year 7 is good but still requires attention everyday. If any students need assistance in acquiring a jumper or other uniform items, they can see Ms Carney or Mr Wawszkowicz.

HSC deadlines draw close

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.

One benefit of this is that there is less pressure on students at the time of the written exams. It also means that there is much more pressure to complete work now!

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

Final dates for submitting these are around the middle of next term, and there can be no extensions of time. The first examiners from the Board of Studies will be in the school by September.

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

Why must I send my child to school?
In NSW it is compulsory for all children between six and seventeen years of age to attend school. All enrolled children are required to attend school each day it is open.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed. Attending everyday makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. Sending your child to school everyday sets a good routine and being on time to school is an important skill for your child to develop.

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?
Contact the school’s principal to discuss the issue and they will seek support from a home school liaison officer (HSLO) whose role is to work with you, your child and the school to encourage regular attendance. Also, provide lots of positive encouragement and be firm.
An invitation

Please join us for the public launch of the findings for the community health survey that was conducted on the Macquarie Fields estate public housing last year by the Macarthur Housing Coalition, a local community group driven by local residents.

The survey was conducted to find out how the Housing Sales Program is affecting the health and well being of residents living in the Macquarie Fields Estate.

Speaking at the launch will be:

- Andrew McDonald MP - local State Member for Macquarie Fields.
- Colleen Lux - from Judith Stubbs and Associates, researcher
- Residents of the Macquarie Fields estate
- Performance by NJE & Untaymable - Aussie Hip-hop

The launch will be held in the Glenquarie Community Centre at James Meehan High School

Monday 21 June
3.30pm - 6.00pm

Free barbecue and refreshments

To register, or for more information, please contact:
Michael Thorn on 4627 9018