**JMHS Library**

Hi,

I am Mr Brassil and I would like to welcome you to Year 7. The JMHS library is transforming into a 21st century learning hub which embraces new technologies, encourages reading and supports the learning of our whole community!

The library is open during recess and lunch as well as before school from 8:30. During these times you can borrow, play board games or just chill out with friends. You can borrow 4 books at a time and keep them for two weeks. Reading is AWESOME and we have a wide variety of different books.

The library provides access to computers and printing facilities too!

I am look forward to getting to know you.

Mr Brassil

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**After school support and study centre**

The after school study centre runs on Thursday in the school library.

At the study centre students can get individual or group support, or work independently on their own work. Students who attend regularly will be given an individual study plan and appropriate work to support their individual needs. This may be preparing for assessments and examinations or simply completing and catching up with classwork.

Student attendance is monitored and students are expected to behave in a mature and responsible manner under minimal supervision.

If you wish you child to benefit from this individual support and would like any further information please contact Mr Lally in the Science and Technology staffroom.

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**Vivo**

Vivo our school rewards system!

Teachers award vivos for achievement in class, attendance or for school service.

Students can check their vivo balance online, just like a bank account.

They can save vivos and use them to buy real rewards, such as food, stationery or electronic products from the school vivo shop.

Vivos rewards encourage respectful, responsible learners.

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**Student safety**

The bus bay outside the school on Harold Street is a designated KISS & DROP ZONE, where students can be dropped off safely in the morning and picked up in the afternoon.

Please do not drive into the staff carpark to drop off and pick up students. For your student’s safety use the KISS & DROP ZONE.

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**Reminder dates 2014**

School Development Day for staff

Tuesday 28 January 2014

Students return (Years 7, 11 & 12)

Wednesday 29 January 2014

Students return (Years 8, 9 & 10)

Thursday 30 January 2014

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**In League in Harmony**

The In League In Harmony program has been popular with our Year 7 and Year 8 students during Term 4. The program helps students develop skills in teamwork, goal setting and leadership as they participate in sporting activities around Rugby League.

NRL star and One Community Ambassador Hazam El Masri joined the In League in Harmony coaching team at James Meehan High School, proving an inspiration to our students as he conducted training activities and joined in a game of touch football.

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**JMHS drummers take their act on the road**

The performance drumming group known as ‘Glow’ with students from Years 7 and 8, performed at Fire in the Fields earlier in the year. In Term 4 they were able to take their act on the road with a tour to two high schools in the wider community. The Stage 4 performance group, along with the Year 10 Master Class students, were invited to perform their glow-in-the-dark drumming act for Year 7 and 9 students at Cabramatta and Casula High Schools.

After the performances, the students conducted drumming workshops with the students from the host schools which was a highlight for all of the participants.

This tour was a positive learning experience for all students involved. The students from James Meehan High School formed new friendships and were able to develop their leadership skills by teaching drumming beats and techniques to other students.
LEAPS students graduate

Year 9 students participating in the LEAPS (Lawyers Encouraging and Assisting Promising Students) program completed the program with a celebration at the end of Term 3. The students and their mentors from the Minter Ellison law firm shared the positive effects that the program had on them during 2013.

The evening culminated in a Pacific Island feast cooked in our school umu by Fou Atonio and Pacific Islander students.

Visitors to our school foyer cannot help but notice a larger than life statue of Lawyers Encouraging and Assisting Promising Students (LEAPS) students. The plaster figure is a model created in preparation for a stone carving of James Meehan which has now been installed at the Department of Lands building in Sydney.

This model was donated to the school by the craftsmen and stonemasons at the Department of Public Works where the statue was created. Meehan came to New South Wales as a political convict in the early 1800s but soon proved himself to be a talented surveyor. He surveyed most of the settlements and towns of the early colony, and created the first maps of large areas of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. His work took him on numerous lengthy and difficult travels throughout the colony. His diligence and energy were highly valued by the colonial authorities.

He was eventually given a grant of land and settled at Macquarie Fields. His home was located in what is now the estate west of Macquarie Fields railway station. No photographs or paintings exist of James Meehan, and the creators of the sculpture researched portraits of his descendants and photographs of living relatives to develop the likeness for this figure.

The evening culminated in a Paciﬁc Island feast cooked in our school umu by Fou Atonio and Paciﬁc Islander students. The National Samoan Rugby Team was visiting the school as part of an Australian tour. With 40 per cent of the school’s population from a Paciﬁc Islander background there was already a captive audience.

However, for the school performers, exchanging dances with the men became a rite of passage. Deputy Principal, Kurt Wawszkowicz said, “They’re teenage boys and they needed to act like warriors. They needed to be able to stare into the faces of an international rugby squad. These men have performed in front of tough international opposition such as the [New Zealand] All Blacks.”

“They really came through. The enthusiasm of our boys was phenomenal. There were cheers and body-slapping and war cries. The energy level of our boys was fantastic.”

During the afternoon the team and its managers talked to the 400 students and local community about the importance of respectful attitudes towards themselves, each other and the community.

James Meehan High was the only school the team visited during this tour and was chosen for its strong Pasifika program ran by Pacific community liaison officer Fou Atonio.

Premier’s Debating Challenge

In 2013 the James Meehan High School Debating Program continued to grow. This year over 30 students participated in the program, six teams represented the school across all divisions of the Premier’s Challenge Debating competition and Mr Brassil became a new coach.

Throughout the season all students showed their commitment to debating, refining their skills and developing their knowledge base. Our competition was tough this year, and we were narrowly defeated in all divisions.

Year 11/12 – Ashcroft High School
Year 9/10 – Hurstville Agricultural High School
Year 7/8 – Macquarie Fields High School

Ms Blanch, Student Engagement Coordinator

Students get the rap on anti-racism

James Meehan High School had the privilege of being involved in creating a music video, What you say matters, designed to send a strong anti-racism message to young people.

Shannon Williams aka hip-hop star, Brothablack, is our Aboriginal education officer. He wrote and performed the song for the video clip, then workshoped scenes for the video with our students. The scenes acted out were based on real life experiences and issues that were important to students.

The video was filmed at school by a professional production company and is part of a set of resources developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Mr Williams said the clip was confronting, but he believed the resource would be invaluable for educators to use as a tool to strike up conversations with their students about racism, particularly during the transition to high school.

School uniform - our dress code

James Meehan High School's uniform is simple and affordable. Students are expected to be in full uniform every day. Uniform items are available from GT Fashions in Glenquarie Town Centre or from the school office.

- School polo top - junior version for Year 7
- Plain navy trousers or tailored shorts; or navy skirt
- Plain white socks and all black leather shoes for proper foot protection
- School jacket — no hoods or other logos, please
- For Physical Education and Sports classes, students must change into a sports uniform (shorts and shirt)

Prices

- Shirt - $18.00
- Shorts
  - Boys shorts – from $10.00
  - Girls shorts – from $29.95
- Long pants – from $25.00
- Skirt – from $15.00 each
- Jacket/Jumper – $20.00

Bell times 2014

<table>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start</td>
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<td>Roll Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
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<td>Finish</td>
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People to know

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Taylor</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Front Office Block 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Flew</td>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
<td>Front Office Block 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Smith</td>
<td>Year 7 Adviser 2014</td>
<td>Upstairs Staffroom Block 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Plunkett</td>
<td>Head Teacher Creative Arts</td>
<td>Upstairs Staffroom Block 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Begg</td>
<td>Head Teacher English</td>
<td>Upstairs Staffroom Block 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Latham</td>
<td>Head Teacher HSIE &amp; PDHPE</td>
<td>Downstairs Staffroom Block 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Ferran</td>
<td>Head Teacher Mathematics</td>
<td>Downstairs Staffroom Block 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs St Julian</td>
<td>Head Teacher Science &amp; TAS</td>
<td>Downstairs Staffroom Block 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Fisher</td>
<td>Head Teacher Djurali &amp; Wingara</td>
<td>Upstairs Block 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Shannon Williams</td>
<td>Aboriginal Education Officer</td>
<td>Upstairs Staffroom Block 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Blanch</td>
<td>Engagement Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Upstairs Library Learning Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Bronwyn Wall</td>
<td>Counsellors</td>
<td>Downstairs Block 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Mylee Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Fou Atonio</td>
<td>Pacific Island Community Liaison Officer</td>
<td>Upstairs Staffroom Block 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Who can help?

At James Meehan there are special teachers who manage different aspects of the school.

Head Teachers
- Help run specific Key Learning Areas and will be able to provide advice, guidance and assistance
- Work with the classroom teachers in each KLA.

Year Adviser
- Checks attendance, uniform, behaviour and contacts your parents if required
- Looks after your well-being and provide guidance and help
- Teaches Productive Living Skills to the year group
- Has copies of timetables
Find your way around JMHS

Block 1
Upstairs: Wood Technology workshops, computer room
Downstairs: Metal Trades Training Centre, Visual Arts studio, boys' toilet

Block 2
Upstairs: PE change rooms
Downstairs: Gymnasium, Canteen

Block 3
Upstairs: Visual Arts rooms, Music rooms, Creative arts staffroom
Downstairs: Food Technology kitchens, Science and Technology staffroom, girls' toilets

Block 4
Upstairs: Library
Downstairs: Science laboratories, Transition and ESL staffroom

Block 5
Upstairs: Computer room (55), Drama studio, Dance studio, Staffroom, Aboriginal & Pacific Islander support staff
Downstairs: Administration office, Principal, Deputy Principals, Counsellors, RTA

Block 6
Upstairs: English staffroom, English rooms, computer room (61), Support Teacher Learning Assistance
Downstairs: Mathematics staffroom, Mathematics rooms

Block 7
Upstairs: Djurali Special Education rooms,
Downstairs: HSIE rooms, HSIE and PDHPE staffroom

Block 8
Upstairs: Wingara Special Education rooms,
Downstairs: Health rooms, General Assistants room

Block 10
Language Centre

Basketball courts

Main Quadrangle

Junior Quiet Area

Senior Quiet Area

Entrance to front office

2014 Subject/Materials Contributions

For your convenience, all payments can be made by instalments or EFTPOS

General school contribution
Years 7-12 $40.00
Two students in one family - $10 discount

Year 7 Subject/Materials Contribution for compulsory subjects
TAS $40.00
Visual Arts $20.00
Music $10.00

Book and equipment pack— only $12.00
Includes:
1 x 4GB Thumb drive
4 x Exercise books 96 pg.
3 x Exercise book 128 pg.
2 x Botany book 96 pg.
1 x Maths grid book
1 x Ruler
1 x 2014 student diary

Calculator
All students need a calculator! The preferred calculator is the CASIO FX 82 AU PLUS model. It can be purchased from school—at the cost price of $20.80. This model can be purchased from Officeworks, Kmart, Big W and some newsagents, at a higher price.
We will engrave free of charge any calculators brought to school by students.

Tips for keeping on track
✓ Take attendance seriously
When you attend school regularly and get to school on time you are able to do better and will be happier at school

✓ Attend regularly
Have you ever gone into a class and been embarrassed or feel unsettled because you can’t figure out what’s going on? Maybe it’s because you missed something important the day before and now it feels like you have lost the plot? Once this cycle starts, it’s hard to stop.

✓ Keep the school and teachers in the loop if you are away
If you are away let the school and teachers know. When the teachers are aware of your situation then they can work with you to set up a plan and they will be more understanding when you get back to school.

✓ Catch up with class teachers
If you missed some classes make sure you see your teachers to find out how to catch up. They will usually be understanding and may even have some short cuts to make it easier. Teachers are sometimes busy and might not be able to help you straight away, just keep trying.

Responsibility of students
✓ Attend school every day
✓ Be on time to classes
✓ Inform the school as soon as you now you will be away
✓ Bring in medical certificates, appointment slips or other evidence that explains your absence as soon as you return to school
✓ Sign in to the office when late — you will need a note to explain lateness to school
✓ Hand in a note of explanation and sign out at the office when leaving early
✓ Many school rewards and excursions will depend on your good attendance.
✓ At James Meehan High School we expect attendance of 90% or better for every student

Any worries about attending school?
Let your Year Adviser know so we can work out a plan to help you.