Changing The Way We Think

This term we have been focussing heavily on the notion that patterns of thought can dictate the way we feel. For many kids today the temptation to lay blame on things such as circumstances, relationships and even parents is such an easy pattern to fall into. The level of bureaucratic political correctness shields kids from the realities of having to deal with real life issues to the point where they can do just about anything without having to endure the resultant ‘pain’ or ‘guilt’, which should be associated with the act. Unfortunately wrapping our kids in cotton wool has meant they have not learned the reality or resilience to survive in the real world.

This term’s surf camp was an attempt to address some of these issues by looking at how your actions affect others and how there is always a price to pay for your impact on the world. In looking at the interplay between all the elements; how wind shapes cliffs, sea shapes sand, and wind shapes sea we begin to see that just as nature has a dynamic interplay; so too do human groups.

As with most camps the pattern of a human group goes something like this.

**Stage 1**
The group is enthusiastic, but very conscious to get everything they need for the journey, even if it means others miss out.

**Stage 2**
The arrival. Along the way, the wingers have emerged and people are getting tired of their constant self-centred negative view of events. ‘It’s too hot.’ ‘It’s too cold.’ ‘I need a piss,’ ‘I’m hungry.’ It seems the group revolves around them and not the other way around.

**Stage 3**
The set up. After the trip, the set-up is always the same. Half the group disappear to look after themselves, while the other half unloads all the gear. Those who looked after themselves took all the ‘good bunks’ while the others carried in their luggage.

**Stage 4**
The activities. At the activities, there are those who jump straight in and remain open to participating and learning while others stand back and watch and wait to see if it is safe while a third group do not participate at all.

**Stage 5**
Towards the end of the camp, tempers are frayed, people are tired and selfishness takes over. It takes integrity to keep working for the group at this stage.

**Stage 6**
The return home. The return home is the most dangerous part of the pattern, because people think the journey is over. It is now that guards are down and mistakes can happen.

This pattern was very evident on the surf camp, but I am pleased to say, it was by far the most successful outcome we have experienced in the 7 years of running the program.

Congratulations to you and your kids!

JON
Welcome to Term 1.
Firstly thank you to all the students and parents who are a part of our strengthening community. It has been a very positive, calm and focused start to the year. The holidays can be a tough time for many of our students. However everyone has come back with a positive mindset, ready to face the challenges and rewards of the New Year.

We are now settled into our new building and we are putting the finishing touches on. It is great to see many students helping out with this process and beginning to take pride in the school. This includes the daily cleaning, which is done without complaint every day.

Happy Birthday to Ashleigh Doherty who turned 17 on the 9th of February and to Rachel Merrigan who celebrated her 16th Birthday on the 17th of February. Birthdays are a chance to celebrate and eat cake but they are also a chance to reflect on our achievements. It is safe to say both girls have matured, become more positive, consistent and happy over the last year and this is a credit to them both.

Surf Camp was a great start to the term and as always a way for students to connect again after the holidays. The success of this year’s surf camp was testament to the growing maturity and sense of community that is forming at the school. It is really amazing to see the students become supportive and group minded. Activities included surfing, swimming, fishing, cooking, working bee, personal development activities focused on this term’s theme: patterns, and table tennis tournament led by (and needless to say, won by) one of Victoria’s top ranking female table tennis players.

Surfing was a great success this camp with all students getting up and proving to themselves that they can stand on a surf board! Whilst some were content just to learn how to stand on the board James Chau and Rach Merrigan mastered the art of falling asleep on theirs.

This was the camp where students worked together in the most positive and helpful manner we have seen so far at the school. What this shows is that there is a truly great culture emerging where students are starting to see and feel the benefits of working together for the common good.

As teachers and proud member of the school, this is what we are ultimately asking for.
**Important Information/ DECV**

**DECV Visit**
The Year 11’s and 12’s attended the DECV centre for an induction and meet and greet with their teachers. All the teachers were able to go over the finer details of the courses and submissions and after the event students reported they felt more confident about their studies. The teachers were also very impressed by the JCS students and look forward to working more closely with them in the future. We encourage all students to contact their teachers on a regular basis to ensure the best outcomes and positive relationships are formed. A DECV visit will be organised for Yr 8-10 over the coming term.

**DECV Contact**
During the course of the year you may be contacted by DECV. For your convenience and to ensure that we have a consistent approach to your child’s education we ask that all communication should occur between JCS and DECV. However sometimes a teacher may contact you. If you are contacted by DECV please let JCS know so we can assist in following up the matter. If you wish to contact any of your child’s teacher directly, feel free to contact Kate and she can pass on the relevant details to you.

**DECV Excursions**
DECV run a number of excursions and seminars over the course of the year. The students will be informed of these and are welcome to attend as they wish. These excursions are not compulsory. JCS excursions remain compulsory.

**Booklist**
The necessary materials have been distributed to your child. We will hand out materials over the course of the semester as they are required. If you have any questions regarding the booklist please contact Kate.

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**A Day in the Life**

**Birthdays**
Ash celebrated her 17th Birthday on the weekend but that didn’t save her the embarrassment of a cake and singing happy birthday!

Rachel Menigan even got sick to avoid her birthday surprise, but we got her in the end!
Dates and Reminders

Term 1 is a nine week term and will finish for Easter on Thursday the 28th of March

Fishing
Due to a rescheduling of events and a number of DECV excursions we will not be running a fishing day this term.

Valley Camp
In the last week of Term 1 we will be running our Valley Camp. This will again be run to our Otway Retreat campus which will be further developed over the course of the year. You will be provided with more information in the coming weeks. Valley camp runs from Monday 25th- Wednesday 27th March.

Computer Agreement form
Please remember as per the computer agreement form laptops are not to be taken home. If you have not completed this form and returned it to Kate please do so immediately.

A computer inventory will take place on Monday the 4th March. Please make sure your child has their computer at school this day.
Thanks to everyone for a great camp!!! Let’s keep it up!!!