

January 2015

BRING THA NOOZE



The Jon Carnegie School
Real Life Learning

From the Founder

So you can imagine my horror when my son James bought home a grade 3 maths book with algebra in it, BEFORE he had even learned his times tables... What you may not understand however, is my horror when I confronted his maths teacher about it only to be told, 'students today don't need to be taught their times tables, they will learn them 'organically' on their progressive Mathematical journey.'

The only thing organic about this statement was the fact it was bullshit! I am in shock that times tables are not taught as a compulsory part of the school maths curriculum any more. Fundamentals are fundamentals for a reason. Watch what happens at the supermarket these days when the cash register malfunctions. Sirens go off...

announcements are made... supervisors come running and it takes 10 teenagers about 6 minutes to work out how much change needs to be given. At fifteen dollars an hour, if this happens 10 times per day (\$150), 7 days per week (\$1,050) 52 weeks per year (\$54,600) in all 1,000 Woolies Supermarket Stores around Australia, the grade 3 math's teacher at my son's school is costing this company alone over half a million dollars per year in lost time revenue...

Try selling them organic apples to your shareholders! Sounds more like a magical mystery tour than a magical mathematical journey to me.

Welcome to Term 1.



The year ahead

A major perk of working at or studying in a small school is that we all play a part in its growth and change. Unlike large institutions, where process and culture is firmly set, individuals have the opportunity to impact on the culture and direction of the school.

Each year I spend some time reflecting on where the school was at this time last year and in previous years. This is an important part of recognising what we have achieved as a school and the steps we have taken to reach our goals.

Parents understand it is important to recognise the small steps. It is imperative to acknowledge how far your children have come; even if you feel that they still have a long way to go. It comes naturally to acknowledge mile stones such as first steps, first words, the first day at school. But as children grow into teenagers it is easy to focus on what needs to change or improve, rather than what has been achieved.

And so it is with the school. We started three and a half years ago on an empty parking lot. At the end of that year I planted a lemon tree out the back. 'That's going to die.' I was promptly informed by one of the more "direct" students. It did. But I didn't give up. Now there is Jasmin growing over the gateway out the back.

It is easy to get caught up in how much further we have to go: better process, higher grades, more students, better communication, new resources and facilities. It is sometimes easy to forget how far we have come.

So let's take a pause to celebrate it (and smell the Jasmin) before stepping into a new and exciting year.

Dates

Please be aware of the following dates for Term 1

Term 1

Monday 26th January	Australia Day Holiday
Tuesday 3rd February	Term 1 commences
Tues 10th Feb - Fri 13th Feb	Surf Camp
Monday 9th March	Labour Day
Tues 31st Mar – Thurs 2nd Apr	Valley Camp
Thursday 2nd April	Term 1 concludes





DECV

The Jon Carnegie School runs our curriculum in conjunction with the Distance Centre of Victoria. This enables us to provide Australian Curriculum from year 7 to VCE within the framework of our personal development and real life learning curriculum.

The year has already commenced for VCE 1 and 2, with the first week of submissions due in preparation for Surf Camp. Students should also have read their set texts: *This Boy's Life* (VCE 2) and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (VCE 1).

Year 7-10 will be completing LAUNCH PAD for the first two weeks of term. This enables them to decide on subjects and complete testing so they are placed at the right level.

Surf Camp

The surf camp runs in week 2 of Term 1. It is our introductory camp to the year. It is an important opportunity for students to get to know each other and build self-confidence.

The surf camp includes a number of outdoor activities that place students in new and challenging circumstances. Activities include surfing, fishing, building, farm work, bushwalking, swimming, initiative activities, and sleep-outs.

The purpose of the camp is for students to participate in and enjoy a range of educational activities that will contribute to the development of their confidence, self-esteem, motivation, skill level, fitness, initiative and team work.

YES
we are excited to be back!



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