From the Founder

Accountability For Comments

A former student recently sent me a link to a YouTube site which recounted some of the abusive comments people received over social media. While these were bad enough in themselves, what was more concerning were the comments that followed the video. I was astonished at the number of people who engaged in a subsequent argument and whose highly abusive comments fuelled each other to the point where there was no logic in play at all.

Many of us grew up hearing our fair share of bullying comments which ranged from laughable to deeply insulting. Thankfully the majority of this occurred in a context where a reply was possible. But today, that is not the case.

While the Internet may be responsible for bringing vast amounts of previously inaccessible information into our lives, it is also responsible for enabling the spread of the cowardly communication technique called trolling, which is able to bypass logic and accountability and replace them with the notion of ‘s/he who says the most vile comment wins.’

What is worse is that the vast majority of these emotionally laden tirades are read by others who feel the same. They gain strength in the notion that they can say whatever they like and be heard without having to acknowledge the complexity of the issues with any balance or sense of responsibility. Our kids too are sucked into this mode of communication. While all generations are guilty of ‘dumbing down’ language, no generation has ever had such a powerful medium as the Internet through which to do it.

That’s why at JCS we think it is imperative to teach that the expression of opinions should always be supported by sustainable logic. And logic in turn is developed by language and capacity for reason. And on a positive note, that is where the Internet has a huge advantage. Anyone can have a voice.

So I think it is incumbent on all of us to consistently remind our kids that it is a privilege to be able express our opinions and therefore a responsibility to do it reasonably and with accountability.

If history teaches anything it is that when the line between opinion and prejudice becomes so blurred, the voice of reason can often become drowned by the ranting expletives which serve only to reduce important issues to slanging matches.
Term 2 Dates

Please be aware of the following dates:

April 19th Term 2 commences
June 24th – July 18th Term 2 holidays
May 10th – 13th Queensland Camp (Postponed until further notice)

VCE

VCE students are well into Semester 1. There are four more weeks of submissions. All of our students are on course to confidently complete the semester due to their consistent and focused approach over the first term.

Year 5-10 are currently working on their personalised numeracy and literacy programs. We will also be working on discovery learning projects this term. Contact Kate if you have any questions in regards to this.
Homestay at Lavers Hill

In Term 1 we were all down at our Lavers Hill campus. The term focused on life skills and community living. Our Lavers Hill program is an important opportunity for young people to learn about the pros and cons of living in a group and what it means to pull your weight. We also got down to lots of building and painting and the appearance of the site is improving along with everybody’s carpentry skills. Of course there was lots of time for fishing, swimming and walks on the magnificent Johanna Beach.

Xavier turns 11

Our youngest member turned 11. What better way to celebrate than with a pancake breakfast, presents, a freezing swim at Apollo Bay, cake and pass the parcel. Muck thought it must be his birthday... wrapping paper and balloons being two of his favorite toys!
Autumn magic!