From the Founder

I was recently asked to speak at a Rotary Club meeting at the Kew Golf Club in East Kew. The topic was pretty broad so I decided to take in our newly discovered photographer Martin Durkin so he could get a chance to see conservative Melbourne at its finest, as well as showing off his art.

Being in Kew, and given I taught in the area for 20 years, it was not surprising I had taught a number of the member’s children and even grand-children along the journey. It was great to catch up and see how they were doing and what things they had achieved in their lives.

My talk revolved mainly around the notion that every child is born with a talent and that by the time they have reached the age of 13, in many cases that talent has been silenced forever in a school system which is so driven by lock step and conformity. To illustrate my point I asked Marty to show one of his photos to the group. The photo was of a boy looking across at some graffiti he had created. The graffiti was not vandalising personal property and the photo is brilliant.

I then mentioned that Marty had been in some trouble recently and that we were working on the photography as a way out of the graffiti culture. The chairman of the day, George then came up with the idea to auction the photo, along with Marty’s commitment that he would stop doing illegal graffiti and start taking photos instead. To Marty’s great surprise the auction started at $100 and increased ten-fold up to $1,000 dollars!

The gentleman who finally bought the photo was 83 years old. The second bidder was a retired sign writer. Both recognised something in Marty that the education system is yet to see. And both did more to direct his passion into a positive outcome in 10 minutes than the system had managed in 10 years. So thanks for the lesson Marty and thanks to the members of the Kew Rotary Club.

JON
Keeping Commitments

As I contemplate the slice of Oreo ice cream cake in the freezer, I am forced to think about the theme for this term: commitments. Commitments are easy to make. But as I eye off the piece of cake left over from a student birthday, I am forced to realize they are a lot harder to keep.

Having Jon’s voice in my head, is helpful for the diet, but also an enormously frustrating part about working at the Jon Carnegie School. If I want to live what I teach, that piece of cake is going to have to stay in the freezer. Because I have made a commitment not to eat cake for the next month and even though I’m standing in the kitchen alone and no one will ever know, I know I can’t hold a student accountable for a commitment they make, if I’m not going to keep mine.

There is a piece of chocolate Oreo ice cream cake in everyone’s freezer…..is yours still there?

Camp

This Term’s camp is Road Trip! This is one of our most exciting and adventurous camps. The destination remains unknown until we leave! Please be aware road trip information will be sent shortly and payments soon due.

Exams

Congratulations to our VCE students Liam Adey and Erin Houghton who start their year 12 exams this week.

DECV

DECV submissions are now over for VCE 2 Students and VCE 1 submissions close at the end of the week. Congratulations to these students for the successful completion of their units.
School Leavers

Congratulations to Erin Houghton, Lalage Zagroon and Ash Doherty who will be completing their VCE this year.

Whilst formal school work is completed for these students, there are still a number of activities that they are asked to participate in. School leavers will assist on camp, participate in career and futures planning and preparation will be involved in work experience and will assist in our Yr 7-10 students in their catch up. It is much appreciated by the school community that they maintain consistent attendance.

End of Term Activities

End of Term is filled with plenty of activities.

Please be aware of the following dates:

- Mon 25th Nov - Fri 28th Nov: Road Trip
- Monday 2nd December: Golf Day
- Wednesday 4th December: Photo Day
- Thursday 5th December: VCE Celebration Dinner
- Thursday 12th December: Speech Evening

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Student Voice

Gabrielle Depierre has quickly got to work acting as a representative for DECV’s Student Voice which was launched this year. As part of her duties Gabby has produced a video which assists new students on the online environment. She also acted as a mentor for a group of students visiting Melbourne form Wanalirri School. The students, who live in a remote cattle station on the Gibb River Road in the Kimberly, ranged in year levels from Year Four to Year Eight. Two students form the DECV accompanied the visiting students, to an IMAX film, the MCG and shopping at Harbour Town. Gabby said the experience was a real shock for the students who had never seen a big city before. She said they were excited to see the MCG, but even more excited to see a rebel sport!

Honorary Birthdays

In the absence of any October birthdays, this month at JCS we celebrated honorary birthdays for a few of us who joined the family midyear. Happy honorary birthday to Josef and Marty...when it comes to Oreo ice-cream cake and cheesecake, better late than never!