



MJLC

Newsletter

Term 2, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 3

21st July
First Day of Term
21st July
School Camp
24th July
Pupil Free Day
30th July
TAFE Open Day
(Year 10 students only)
31st July
Presentation Day
24th Sep
Bowling Reward
25th Sep
Last day of Term

Term 4

13th Oct
First Day of Term
13th Oct
Pupil Free Day
5th Nov - 6th Nov
Year 9 Exams
10th Nov
School Certificate Exams
11th Nov
School Certificate Exams
12th Nov
School Certificate Exams
13th Nov
School Certificate Exams
10th Dec
Bowling Reward
11th Dec
Graduation Night
11th Dec
Last of School –
Lambton Pool BBQ lunch
11th Dec
Last day of term

Welcome to the Margaret Jurd Learning Centre's second quarterly newsletter of 2008. Term 2 has been huge for both years 9 and 10 and staff alike, and term 3 is shaping up to be just as busy! I hope everyone is enjoying a well earned break and that their holiday is a safe and happy one.

Regards,
Sharon Grogan,
Editor In Chief

Return to School: First day of Term 3 will be 21st July 2008.

Reports: Reports will be sent out in week two, term 3. This date coincides with the completion of the half yearly exams.

A quick word from Helen:

I just wanted to say to all parents and carers of our students how proud I am of the effort and determination shown by **everyone!**

To all Year 10 students I now am in no doubt you will all do really well at the end of the year. **Well done all of you!**

Shopping list For Term 3

1 pencil case
5 Blue Pens
2 Black Pens
3 Lead Pencils
2 Red Pens
1 Ruler
1 Packet of colored pencils
1 Pencil sharpener
1 Protractor
1 Compass
1 Scientific Calculator (Available for purchase from school \$30.00 Casio FX82AU plus) this is the cost price to the school. The calculators are available now for purchase at the school.
1 Hat (available for purchase from school for \$7)

Stationary Supplies

As you are aware students are required to supply their own stationary needs. The areas covered by school fees do not include ongoing stationary supplies. The areas covered are:

School camp

School excursions including transport costs

Morning tea/ Afternoon Tea

Weekly Sport

Students Graduation Tickets

Special outings

Special occasion BBQ lunches

As you can see we certainly make \$20 stretch a long way, particularly when we include excursions like trips to Sydney for the NRMA Road Trauma Forum or trips to the Theatre.

We find that students start the year with their stationary needs however once they dwindle they are not being replaced. Please understand that your children's pens run out and their pencils break and their books fill up. Please keep check on them and replace them when necessary. I know it sounds simple but we are currently supplying pens on a daily basis to approximately 15 of our 20 students and for some reason they lose them and need a new one every day. They simply cannot do their work without the basics of pens and paper.

Scientific Calculators

The Department of Education have made changes to the requirements of Scientific Calculators for students completing stage 5 studies (years 9 and 10) The backup supply of calculators at the school does not include the upgraded feature of the Casio FX82 PLUS and will not suffice for the end of year examinations. It is vital that the students have the necessary equipment in order to give them the best possible opportunity at success. It is important that the students have the calculators as soon as possible so they can become accustomed to their operation.

The school has sourced a supply of the required calculators through our stationary Supplier and have the calculators available for purchase from the beginning of term 3 The cost of the calculators are \$30.00, THE SCHOOL IS NOT MAKING ANY MONEY ON THE SALE OF THE CALCULATORS THIS IS THEIR COST PRICE. It is essential that all students have the required calculator for Mathematics this term.

An Important Note to all parents and Students from The Manager

Well the end of Term Two saw all of our students sit some very important examinations across all subjects. I must say I, along with all of the staff were extremely proud of the effort put into these exams by all students. It is fair to say however that some students did put in a greater effort prior to sitting the exams by revising and studying their work, one in particular even downloaded past papers from the board of studies website and practiced, this will definitely show in their final results.

If you remember I called a meeting for parents of students in year 10 to discuss some important factors around the school certificate. Unfortunately I only had 2 parents able to commit to the meeting so it was cancelled. I unfortunately do not have the time available to hold individual meetings for all parents to be able to address the issues that needed to be covered so I have decided to list them in this newsletter for your information.

- **N Notifications**

An N Notification means Non completion and results in the student not being eligible to receive a school certificate. This means that if your child receives an n notification in any of the subjects offered at MJLC THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE A SCHOOL CERTIFICATE. N Notifications are issued if a student does any of the following

1. Does not complete set mandatory hours of study across all or any of the mandatory subjects in the School Certificate. (MJLC only offers mandatory subjects) Lengthy absences or regular days off will result in an N Notification being issued. Some students will be receiving warnings regarding this early next term. **STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE HAVING ANY TIME OFF WITHOUT MEDICAL CAUSE AND DO NEED THIS TO BE VERIFIED WITH A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.**
2. Non Completion of set work and Non Completion of set Assessment Tasks will also result in an **N Notification**. The school deliberately allows plenty of time in class to complete all work including assessment tasks however several of our students refuse to take advantage of this time and will be receiving warnings regarding this early next term. From our side we do not understand the students not completing the work, unlike mainstream schools we do not set homework unless it is for the student to complete work not completed in class or suspension work. The programs written are targeted at students with poor concentration levels and are designed for students' success.
3. Cheating in Assessment Tasks or Exams will result in an **N Notification**. Some students last term Plagiarized (Copied) another students work and have already received a warning of an N Notification.

The process of an N Notification being issued is that you will receive a written warning of an impending N notification. Students will have the opportunity to rectify the problem by completion of work or vastly improved attendance. **In some instances the student will still receive a "0" score for that particular assessment task e.g. cheating or extremely late completion of task however will have the risk of an N Notification lifted.**

- **Behavioral Changes and Moodiness As the Year Progresses**

Leaving school is a major transition point in our lives. It brings with it the expectation of maturity and responsibility as we each progress from adolescents to adulthood. The students really do start to feel this pressure as their final year at school progresses and they ponder their future wondering what they will do when they leave. For some students this is easier than others however for some you may witness some or all of the following behaviors:

1. Oppositional behaviors as they start to assume the rights of a mature, independent person.
2. Withdrawn, quiet or depressed.

3. Childlike, immature behaviors like a return to behaviors you had hoped they had outgrown.
4. Tantrums or anger outbursts

Please be understanding of their emotional situation at this time however do not use this as an excuse for ridiculous behavior, we certainly do not. Be encouraging of your children and explore with them what they would like to do when they finish school, even talk to their caseworker about transition plans into TAFE or employment. A more planned approach to their exit from school will assist greatly in reducing the massive anxiety some of our students experience.

- **END OF YEAR EXAMS**

Our half yearly's was an interesting experience as we saw many loopholes in our students expectations The first major area that we noted was that only about three out of 19 students were prepared for the exam with a pen to write with. Please ensure your child is equipped with pens, pencils, rulers, protractors etc. every day for school.

Some students were late for the start of the school day meaning they miss out on vital information required to sit the exam. At the end of the year we may have to start the day at 8:45 to allow for students with special provisions to have their required lunch break. The time will not be changed and students who are late will not be permitted to enter the exam room resulting in a fail. If your child catches public transport to school and it gets him/her to school late you will need to arrange alternative transport for the days of the exams.

It is important that the students gain an understanding of the importance of keeping their notes for the purpose of revision. Many students tell me they have lost their work and cannot revise. I recommend these students look at their topics covered and do some general study in these areas. Students who have missed topics due to enrolling late can speak to the teachers about ways in which they can catch up on this information. One example is students who have not covered the Vietnam War or The Stolen Generation can ask Helen Appleyard for some catch up work, likewise Darren Ogilvie can be approached for catch up work in math's and science topics like algebra and the periodic table. There will be exam questions on them so it is vitally important that they take responsibility for themselves and complete the work. Students in Year 10 are at an age where they are capable of taking responsibility for themselves and are about to enter a society that expects it.

Regards

Melise Sutton
MANAGER

Upcoming Events Term 3

School Camp 2008.

School Camp dates are Monday 21st- Wednesday 23rd July. Everyone has been extremely excited about camp this year. We have record numbers of students attending and it is shaping up to be a great one. This will be my first MJLC camp and I am thrilled to be able to have the opportunity to be

involved. All the stories I have heard from Luke and Kerrie indicate that I am in for a great couple of days.

Students not attending camp are not required to come to school as there will be no staff to supervise.

Pupil Free Day: Thursday the 24th July will be a Pupil free day for all students. School will resume on Monday 28th July.

TAFE Open Day: Newcastle TAFE is having an open day on Wednesday 30th July, to explore future employment opportunities and courses on offer. This will be made available to all Year 10 students who show an interest.

Half Yearly Presentation Day: All family and friends are welcome to join us for our half yearly presentation day. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support and celebrate your child's success as students are recognised for outstanding achievement throughout the first half of the year. After the presentation, family and friends are encouraged to stay for morning tea and a cuppa. This is also a great chance to have a chat with staff.

Some of the highlights for last term have been:

Billy Elliot:

In Term 2 students were lucky enough to have an excursion to the Capitol Theatre to see the stage production of Billy Elliot. As the movie had been shown to students as part of their English studies the story was well known.

Billy Elliot is the story of a young boy growing up in England. It is set in 1984 when the whole of England is preoccupied with the miner's strikes. During his families financial and emotional struggle Billy discovers his passion for dance. This is made possible when he stumbles across a ballet class at the same hall he takes his dreaded boxing lessons. Billy's struggle to stay true to himself and break all the stereotypical boundaries set by his father, brother and by the whole community is directly related to Term 2's English topic " Gender Stereotypes " .

To say that the student's behavior and enthusiasm were excellent would be an understatement. For some of our students this was their first experience of live theatre and to see the appreciation on their faces was truly amazing. I think I speak on behalf of all staff when I say "what a wonderful day it was"! (Except for those students that were unfortunate enough to be on my bus, and spent an hour waiting for our "blown out" tyre to be fixed. Thanks for your patience guys,) Special thanks also to Andrew Young and Jason Watson for keeping Helen and I thoroughly entertained all the way to Sydney with your humorous chit chat.

Kelvin's Farewell:

Pastor Kelvin Holiday from the Heights Family Church of Christ has provided Religious Education to the students at MJLC for the past 18 months. Kelvin has built a great relationship with the

students as he has focused on teaching the relevance of Christianity in the students' lives and had them "try Christianity on for size" through his lessons. You may recall the hamper day in December last year where the students packed and delivered food hampers to families and friends in need. It was wonderful to watch the students look beyond their own need and experience the joy and satisfaction that comes with giving

Sadly for us Kelvin has accepted a position with Care Works in Sydney where he can give into Churches across the state. Matt will be replacing Kelvin and we all look forward to building a strong relationship with Matt whilst he continues with this wonderful work.

Students said farewell to Kelvin with a sausage sizzle at the end of term; this was a great way to thank Kelvin for his much valued and always enthusiastic Religion classes. The students presented Kelvin with a farewell poster that was made in class. We all wish Kelvin well in the future and say goodbye with gratitude for his commitment and dedication to the students and staff at MJLC..

Betty's Baby:

Margaret Jurd Learning Centre would like to officially welcome "Baby Tom" into the world and to congratulate Betty and her husband on the safe arrival of their first child. We had all become accustomed to seeing Betty in her "Baby Bump" tee-shirt, and were delighted when Betty paid us a visit to show us her son.

Special Reward Outing At Borders: Helen had a hard time leaving Borders bookstore once again. This Terms winner of the award was Kate Fyvie. This award is in recognition of outstanding results and dedication in English. Kate got to pick a book of her choice. Well done Kate!

Awards for Term 2:

Students who received a most improved award this term were:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Marcus Jones | Jason Watson |
| Matilda Robertson | Jacob Korsman-Ridolfi |
| Toni Johnson | Joshua Burgmann |
| Shaie-lee Grover | Dylan Brydon |
| Daniel Huckstadt | Ashley Demech |

Students who received a student of the week award this term were:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Ashley Demech | Toni Johnson |
| Andrew Young | Ben Tebble |
| Heather Ferguson | Jennifer McBride |
| Marcus Jones | Kate Fyvie |
| Adam Hogan | Dylan Brydon |
| Shaie-lee Grover | Jason Watson |

Sport:

Term 3 sport sees us returning to Howzat Indoor Sports Centre in Newcastle where we will be doing Indoor Soccer. The cost of sport is covered in the school fees.

Special Reward Outing Ten Pin Bowling: Case workers will be lucky enough to take four of our students on a Ten Pin Bowling outing at Mayfield Superstrike as a reward for their consistent excellent behaviour and application throughout term 2. Check dates to remember on page 1.

Kerrie's Corner

Some helpful tips on teenagers and pocket money.

Giving pocket money is an excellent way to develop independence in children and young people.

Here are some ideas to help you use pocket money to develop independence and generosity in your children.

- Give pocket money regularly: like adults children should have a pay day each week or fortnight.
- Consider using the 3 jars concept: provide 3 jars for your child when you give them pocket money. One for spending, one for saving and investing and one for charity. Always ask your child to distribute their pocket money among the jars themselves. This is a great way to teach kids a lot about money and its use i.e. saving and introducing the notion of charity. You may want to have a rule that states: once money is allocated to a jar it cannot be moved or retrieved later.
- Ensure pocket money is relevant to age and focuses on your child's needs (not wants)
- Teach your child about goal setting: by encouraging your child to save for a big item such as a bike or a skateboard your child will learn a great deal about planning and looking ahead, the value of budgeting and experience personal satisfaction of reaching a goal.

While pocket money is a great way to develop independence in young people it may be smart to cut or reduce pocket money if your child gets a part time job as it is valuable that they learn to pay their own way.

Taken from Parenting Ideas Michael Grosse (newsletter@parentingideas.com.au)