FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Be the change you wish to see - Mahatma Gandhi

In the first newsletter of the year, it is obvious that there have been a great deal of changes in our school, some of those from our system, and some of those locally.

Firstly, the Department of Education has introduced its final set of reforms for this electoral period. The funding model adopted by the NSW Government has meant incredible opportunities for our students at James Fallon High School, and we are using this resource to support our school plan.

The school plan was one arrived at through community consultation. Our planning team asked families, students, staff and members of our neighbourhood to put their views to us on what works best at our school, and what could be improved.

Initiatives and activities always need to be evaluated continually – you never really know how you are going unless you get feedback.

One ongoing way I would like to gather this feedback is to ask families to give me their viewpoints – on what they like about the school, and what they would like to look at improving. To this end I will host two events for this term, and if families wish to come, to let me know (just for catering purposes) to talk to me about our school.

These will be:

**Thursday, March 24, 2pm** (at the school) – Coffee and afternoon tea
**Friday, March 25, from 7:30am** (at the school) – Breakfast

I have invited our staff to engage in periodically visiting me and giving me their views on our school. These half hours are referred to (in jest) as JP30s – 30 minutes with me (JP). I would like to extend this invitation to families – if you would like to spend some time with me, discussing our school and your views, simply call and we can arrange a time. I wish to do this across the year – to keep gaining valued feedback on our progress as a school, so it doesn’t have to be this term – the opportunity is always there.

The other changes that are local include the improvements of our facilities, and our staff. These were listed at the first assembly, and are as follows:

- Two new school signs for information;
- Paintwork through the exterior of the school;
- New curtains in the Hall;
- Blinds throughout the English/History area and PDHPE;
- Two new staffrooms: PDHPE and Special Education
- Security cameras in the toilet and sick bay areas to increase safety of all students;
A series of new smartboards in the remaining classrooms;
A new learning centre at the top of A block, and a renovated senior study space in C block;
And…the planned construction of our Drama space, aiming for the April school holidays.

The staff changes include welcoming:
- Ms Simone Callaghan, our new MC class teacher;
- Mr Ross Davidson, a new TAS teacher;
- Mr Patrick Devaney, a new English/History teacher;
- Mrs Helen Goodacre, the Home School Liaison Officer, who is now based at our school;
- Ms Jamie Cohen in HSIE;
- Ms Kate O’Connor, in English/History;
- Ms Jeanell Pesten, Learning Support;
- Ms Emma Soull, in Science.
- Ms Simone Russell, SLSO in the Special Education Unit.

There are some other staffing changes to mention:
- Mr Baker has retired after 37 years of teaching. Mr Johnson will replace Mr Baker as Deputy Principal, and Ms Sedunary will be Head Teacher Science.
- Mrs Thurling has retired, again after 37 years of teaching. Mrs Lieschke will replace Mrs Thurling as Head Teacher Social Science.
- Miss Anita Jamble has taken a year’s leave, and Mr Corey Bubb will work in Mathematics this year.
- We welcome back Ms Jo Bartels to the Visual Arts Department.
- Miss Clare Holloway will work in the MC class this year, and Mrs Ann McIntyre will teach Science.
- The Year Adviser for Year 7 2017 will be Mr Adam Donnelly.
- We welcome back Laura Booker to our school as an SSO, who will work with Angela Hahn, who has decided to remain with us this year, to provide even more support to students in their roles – a terrific addition to the school.
- Ms Emily Dibben will return to our school as Welfare Teacher, to replace Joy Stephens, who has returned to Nowra this year.

I look forward to working with our fantastic team of staff this year.

So, change is a constant, and makes our work rewarding, energising, and fun.

Jenny Parrett
PRINCIPAL
We’re at the halfway mark of Term 1 and students across the school have settled well into their classes and learning.

Year 7
Our Year 7 students have made a very bright start to high school under the care and guidance of their year adviser, Mr Finn.

The school has designated an area of the playground as only for Year 7 students. Whilst any Year 7 student is welcome to be in other areas of the playground during the recess and lunch breaks, the area beside the hall does provide a space where our youngest students may mix only with one another. This space is working well for students.

In Week 5, teachers of each Year 7 class will meet to discuss the progress of students and how each class is progressing with its learning and social cohesiveness.

All parents of our current Year 7 students are invited to attend the annual ‘Meet the Teachers’ function which take place on Monday, 29th February from 4.30 – 6.00 p.m. in the main quadrangle. Light refreshments will be provided and parents/carers should feel welcome to attend at any time during that period. It is an informal occasion which builds on the vital home-school partnership we foster at James Fallon HS to support your child. A letter with an RSVP slip attached was sent home with each Year 7 student. Students should return that slip to Mr Finn or me at the school by Friday, 26th February. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the school.

Year 10 & Year 11 assessment booklets
The Year 10 and Year 11 assessment booklets were distributed to the respective students at the beginning of February.

Consistent with that idea of fostering a culture of academic achievement and excellence at James Fallon High School, booklets contain a very clear assessment policy. Students in Years 10 and 11 in 2016 need to meet task deadlines, understand the specific basis upon which variations from assessment task requirements are granted and the importance of informing their teachers as early as possible if there are any concerns about their understanding or capacity to meet the requirements of an assessment task.

Year 11
Those Year 11 students who changed their minds about a subject they selected in 2015 to study in senior school were each interviewed about their change of heart during the first weeks of the 2016 school year and where it was possible, have now switched to their preferred subject.
Year 11 students who are undertaking a TAFE course and remain committed to that subject will be interviewed during Week 5 and permitted to discontinue one of their school subjects, subject to satisfying and effort and application requirements.

**Year 12**

Notification of Term One assessment tasks for HSC courses have been issued to classes or will be very shortly. Students should start early on the learning and preparation for these tasks and ask for assistance from their teachers as needed. The halfway point of the Year 12 course of study occurs at the end of this term.

Those HSC students who sought permission to discontinue a course at the beginning of the 2016 school year were each subjected to the same process: an interview with the Deputy Principal Curriculum who then consulted with the Year Adviser and sought a written report from all subject teachers as to the student’s attitude and effort. A balanced decision as to whether the particular student was an appropriate candidate to spend several periods each week in the library undertaking independent study was then made. This process is designed to continue building a culture of academic achievement and endeavour at James Fallon. Any parent or carer who wishes to discuss their child’s course of study in the HSC should contact me at the school.

Ross McGarvie
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM (RELIEVING)

**FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATION**

We have had an excellent start to the school year with students now settled into their learning routines. I would like to welcome new staff and students to James Fallon High School and wish them well in their teaching and learning at our school.

I will be Relieving Deputy Principal Administration for Term 1 until the position is filled permanently. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Wayne Baker all the best in his retirement.

**Student Attendance**

This has been a focus for me during the first term of school. I have been monitoring student attendance, in particular consistent late arrivals, unexplained absences and sport absences. I have been interviewing students and contacting home to ensure that attendance procedures are being followed. Consistent and timely attendance will allow students the best opportunity to succeed with their learning. Please take the time to read the attendance information that
follows this report. If you have any concerns regarding your child’s attendance do not hesitate to contact me at school.

**Prefect and SRC Induction**

It was a pleasure to watch the induction of our student leaders for 2016. This assembly was held in the school hall with great support from the parents of our leaders, students from our feeder primary schools as well as our student body.

I also recently took a number of James Fallon HS Year 12 students back to their primary school for a primary induction assembly. Alhana, Erin, Georgia and Cameron enjoyed the opportunity to visit Glenroy PS, participate in the assembly and speak with their primary school teachers. I’m sure they could have spent the whole afternoon at Glenroy but were keen to get back school so as not to miss the last two periods.

**Glenly Street Entrance**

The new automated gate at the Glenly Street entrance has been installed and is working well. This entrance still has traffic flow problems at peak times, particularly at the end of school. This congestion usually clears within ten minutes of the end of the school day. The Duffy Crescent school entrance is an alternative up pick or drop off site for your child that does not have the same issues as the Glenly Street entrance.

**Communication**

Success at school and in life generally is rarely achieved in isolation. Please encourage your child to communicate with their teachers. Being proactive with communication can clarify understanding, provide valuable feedback and eliminate problems before they occur.

Year advisers of each year group are a crucial part of the school’s welfare structure. The year adviser provides support for students as well as monitoring their wellbeing. Year advisers provide assistance to both students and parents and may be able to supply answers or services related to the specific needs of your child. It is important to initiate contact with the relevant year advisor if you have concerns about your child’s schooling or welfare.

I am also available to discuss concerns or issues related your child’s learning, well-being and progress at James Fallon High School.

“Together We Succeed”

David Johnson
RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Teachers afternoon (Year 7)</td>
<td>Monday 29th February</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 4.30-6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverina Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHS Tennis Knockout Competition</td>
<td>Monday 7th March</td>
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<td>Year 11 &amp; 12 Visual Arts Excursion Melbourne</td>
<td>Wednesday 9th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Girls Cricket JFHS vs Murray High School</td>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Science Excursion Wonga Wetlands</td>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSU Wagga Wagga Big Day In Excursion</td>
<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
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<td>Gold Cup half day – school ends 12pm</td>
<td>18th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverina Water Polo Knockout - Albury Pool</td>
<td>Wednesday 19th March</td>
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<td>Easter Holiday (Friday and Monday)</td>
<td>25th March – 28th March</td>
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<td>Last day Term 1 School Holidays</td>
<td>Friday, 8th April</td>
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<td>First day Term 2</td>
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**CALANDER**

**TERM 1, WK 5 – TERM 1, WK 10**

2016 has brought about some new staff in the Social Science Staffroom! Mrs Lieschke is Head Teacher and we still have Mrs Stein, Mrs Robinson and Mr Wilson. Ms Mason and Ms Cohen are also teaching in our faculty this year.

The Year 12 CAFS class study Homelessness in Australia, and they decided to not just learn about the issues facing homeless people, but to get involved and help out! They spent last term collecting products for homeless women, an initiative organised by ‘Share the Dignity’. The class, together with teachers around the school, generously donated 13 full shopping bags of products. This term they will be having a guest speaker from Aware Industries to come and talk about employment for people with disabilities.

Our junior classes are well underway with their studies. In the coming weeks year 9 will attend an excursion to Wonga Wetlands and Waterview to investigate geographical issues in the community.

Jade Lieschke
HEAD TEACHER – SOCIAL SCIENCE
Each year Lions Australia runs the Youth of the Year program to encourage, foster and develop leadership in conjunction with other citizenship qualities in our youth. The competition is open to students between the ages of 15 and 19 years and it requires that students showcase their academic and sportsmanship attainments as well as demonstrating their citizenship and leadership qualities.

This year James Fallon High School was ably represented by Year 11 students Carissa Marheine and Thomas Keatings, who participated in the Lavington Lion’s Club round of the competition on Tuesday 23rd February. Unfortunately our students were not selected to proceed to the regional round in this competition, but they represented our school with pride, talking passionately about overcoming adversity and challenges in our lives and appreciating what we have, whilst thinking about those worse off than ourselves.

Thomas and Carissa spoke with passion and conviction and were warmly congratulated and praised on the night for their passion and the maturity with which they spoke. Congratulations to both students.

Kate Dixon
HEAD TEACHER ENGLISH/HISTORY (REL.)
Executive: Emma King – Thomas Keatings – Anna McGown – Lachie McMillan

Junior Executive: Sonali Kagithala – Isabelle Montgomery – Georgia Knight – Ellie Richardson


Year 7: Carl Leones – Lachlan Booth – Isabel Hopper – Ashley Boswell

Year 8: Jeevan Kagithala – Sean Maguire – Ivana Skok – Soraya Doubleday

Year 9: Hollie Harvey – Matthew Chapman – Laura Fellows – Joshua O’Connor

Year 10: George Parker – Coriah Keatings – Kaitlyn Groch – Madeline Esler

Year 11: Jake Kardol – Cody Miller

Year 12: Amy Heather – Sasha Enever

Indigenous Representative: Joshua Hunter

ESL Representative: Rebecca Kapinga

Special Education Representative: Toniah Gleeson
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A very well supported swimming carnival was held at the Lavington Swim Centre on Thursday February 5\textsuperscript{th} in very sunny and warm weather; perfect for fast swimming. It was wonderful to see so many students who are new to our school competing, this included not only the new Year 7’s but a number of students who have come to our school from other towns and schools.

Major results from the day are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>BOY CHAMPION</th>
<th>GIRL CHAMPION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lachlan Booth</td>
<td>Matilda Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Joshua Furze</td>
<td>Sophie O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gabriel Kennedy</td>
<td>Athena Bouteris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Branden Lowe</td>
<td>Coriah Keatings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lachlan Ralph</td>
<td>Dana Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 AND OVER</td>
<td>Abraham Daly</td>
<td>Alhana Hofer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winning House

4\textsuperscript{th} - Tasman on 271 points

3\textsuperscript{rd} - Bass on 404 points

2\textsuperscript{nd} - Flinders on 416 points

1\textsuperscript{st} - Cook on 883 points

WASP CUP POINTS

Points earned towards the WASP CUP were accumulated during the “Noodle Relays” and the results are as follows:

4\textsuperscript{th} - Cook on 50 points

3\textsuperscript{rd} - Tasman on 55 points

2\textsuperscript{nd} - Flinders on 70 points

1\textsuperscript{st} - Bass on 85 points
ATTENDANCE @ JFHS

The law in NSW places the responsibility on parents to ensure their child is enrolled at a government or non-government school and attends the school whenever teaching is provided (or is registered for home schooling). Under Section 22 of the Education Act 1990 parents have a legal duty to ensure their school-aged children attend school. Non-attendance at school for a prolonged period of time without satisfactory explanation is classified as Educational Neglect. School staff are duty bound to report such cases to Community Services which may result in an investigation and further action by them.

It is important to communicate any concerns you have with your child’s attendance to the school. Working together with the school often solves the problem. If more assistance is needed the school can refer the case to the Home School Liaison Program. The Home School Liaison Officer will work with you and the school to develop strategies to improve attendance. If this is not successful the Department may choose to proceed with legal action which could result in prosecution and a fine of up to $11 000.

It is important for your child’s attendance to stay above 85%

Missing just one day a week will put your child below this line and the school will contact you to discuss their welfare, if no reason (e.g. prolonged illness) has been provided

HIGH ATTENDANCE = MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES = MORE QUALIFICATIONS = MORE CHOICE

ewerylesson

Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

Regularly check your child’s attendance record at the school to see if it matches with your own record.

Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. They are more likely to attend if they feel supported and their anxieties are acknowledged.

Only grant days at home for genuine illness.

Avoid taking holidays in school time.
Praise and reward good attendance and punctuality in the mornings.

If you have concerns, ring the school and ask to talk to your child’s Year Adviser.
Regent Cinemas is sponsoring the School Cleanliness And Beautification Draw

DO THE RIGHT THING
PUT YOUR RUBBISH IN THE BIN

And a Double Pass to a movie at Regent Cinemas could be yours!