



'Learning together' apart

We celebrated Education Week from 3-7 August by sharing about inventive practice that was used in our College during the 'learning together' from home experience.

For more, view our Education Week video in 'News' on our website.

'Virtual' visit from Olympian

Olympic aerial skier Samantha Wells shared her story with Year 9 PDHPE classes via Zoom, including her lessons about goal setting, overcoming obstacles and planning for success.

For more, read Grace's article on our website.

Lunch time Concert

Our talented Music students treated staff and students to a lunch time concert in lieu of Variety Night in July.

Great atmosphere and performances!

For more photos, visit our website gallery.

Welcome to Term 3!

By Ms Hayley Macdonald, Principal

We've had a positive start to the term. Students and staff returned refreshed from their break, classrooms have been settled and students are looking great in uniform.

We continue to exercise procedures to keep students safe during these times of ongoing concern. I am extremely grateful to you all for your patience as we continue to respond to the latest health information. Please see page 7 for an update of our latest practices and our answers to frequently asked community questions.

Last week we joined public schools across the state to celebrate Education Week. The theme this year was 'Learning Together' in recognition of all the ways teachers, students and families pulled

together to ensure continuity of high quality teaching and learning in the face of adversity during term 2. See page 3 to find out how we celebrated across the College and CEP.

At the beginning of term we encourage students to set themselves some learning goals for the term ahead. Goal setting is an important step in assisting teens take greater responsibility for their learning. Having a conversation about semester 1 reports (now available on Sentral) can be a useful prompt to encourage your teen to identify areas of focus for improvement.

Elective subject selections for 2021 take place over the next few weeks. Again, please speak with your teen about their elective interests and encourage them to talk to their teachers about any subject specific questions. They will be bringing home a booklet outlining all their elective options.

Enjoy the term everyone!

Out & about

A snapshot of learning beyond the classroom

While excursions, camps and interschool competitions are still on hold, our students still have plenty of lunchtime activities and field trips to keep them busy and engaged. Here's a snapshot of what's been happening beyond the classroom over the last few weeks.



Students from our Special Education classes are having fun while building strength, flexibility and balance at their 6 week gymnastics program at Hunter Sports Centre.



Some formidable teams are battling it out each Wednesday lunch for the right to call themselves 'Campus Trivia Champions.' They are definitely keeping our Quiz Master, Mrs McShane on her toes! Congratulations to The Moggy's Team for taking out the semester 1 title. All welcome to join in the fun this term.



Students enjoy the opportunity to design and build together at Minecraft@lunch. Come along to Room 16 on Monday lunchtimes if you're keen to join in.



Students learn the craft of origami on Friday lunchtimes in Room 12 with Mr Papa. All welcome to join the fold!



Beginners to experienced lifters are invited along to Lifting Club in the CrossFit room every second Friday lunchtime. It's a great opportunity to refine technique and learn new lifts.



Congratulations to our Chess team who have made it through to the round 4 semi-final of the NSW state competition. They've done an amazing job to adapt so quickly to the new online format.

Staying connected across the College

By Ms Kylee Owen, College Principal

Callaghan College constantly finds creative solutions to maintain our learning connections. Here are just a few examples of this collaboration so far this term.

Year 10 Transition to Jesmond Senior Campus

Next week (17th – 21st August) Jesmond Senior Campus will welcome our Year 10 students for their individual interviews with Jesmond and Waratah staff. This is the opportunity for students to discuss and ask questions about their HSC Course selections and options for their own future pathways. It's important for every student to consider the courses that they will enjoy studying and have the ability to engage with the learning, enhancing possible future pathways.



Year 10 students visit Jesmond Snr Campus next week for interviews about HSC course selections

University of Newcastle partnership brings benefits to all students

The University and Callaghan College have partnered to design a unique teaching practicum experience. More than 37 Masters of Education students have been involved in various tutoring and learning support programs across the three campuses this term. The additional support for our students comes at a perfect time, given the challenges to our learning environment due to COVID-19. The reciprocal nature of this formal relationship with the University and our College is another fine example of how agile we can be as a learning community, despite the world around us.



Master of Education students from the University of Newcastle provide learning support to our students across the College

Minister celebrates Callaghan Education Pathways Education Week video

What better way to celebrate how vibrant our learning community is, than creating a Grease number (We go together) with our partner primary schools. This year's theme for Education Week 'Learning together' was the perfect prompt for our creative teachers to choreograph a dance that synchronised more than 2,000 students from 17 different school locations into one edited music video. The Minister of Education thought it was so good she posted it on her social media. Another outstanding collaboration for Callaghan.



Dancers from Waratah join students from across the Callaghan Education Pathway to create our Education Week video



Dancers from Islington PS, Hamilton North PS and Waratah West PS join students from across the Callaghan Education Pathways to create our Education Week video, 'Learning Together.'

Creative and Performing Arts

While our public performances and musicals might be cancelled for another term, there's still loads happening inside our Creative and Performing Arts Classrooms. We get the wrap-up from Head Teacher, Bart Simpson.....

What are the benefits of studying CAPA subjects?

Our subjects are project based so students learn skills and concepts while making and creating. We design our programs around students' interests and passions, and this allows each learning experience to be meaningful and significant to the world our students live in. Students also have access to our Music Studio, Darkroom, Photography studio along with industry standard software.

While there is a strong practical aspect to CAPA, there is still a solid theoretical approach to learning, so students continue to develop their critical thinking, communication and research skills.

What does a typical day look like for a CAPA teacher?

From an arts lens, we might kick off with Year 7 Visual Arts, discussing how colour can register emotions as part of our Elements of Design theory, before shooting images outside with Year 10 Photographic and Digital Imaging, making sure we are making best use of light and camera functions. After lunch, we might be exploring Street Art with Year 8 Visual Arts - looking at postmodern conventions by contemporary artists such as Banksy, and the way graffiti artists can focus people so powerfully on political issues. Finally, we might wrap up the teaching day with the Digital Media Team in the dark room to capture some creative footage using the green-screen.

For our teachers in music and dance, a typical day might include beginner music lessons with Year 7 (popular songs on keyboard, guitar, ukulele). Then a few riffs with Year 8 using various rock instruments, followed by helping Year 9 Dance students to express their own stories and ideas through their own dance compositions. We could also be running vocal or dance groups for some fun during recess and lunch breaks.



What does it take to excel in CAPA subjects?

Practice, patience and determination. Most students come into CAPA without the skill, but with a lot of determination to learn about the subject of their choice.

As students gain and hone their practical skills, they tend to get more and more involved, in and out of school time. Students who want to excel in creative areas tend to be very active in our extra curricular activities and performance opportunities such as Art Club, Vocal Group, Dance Troupe, Starstruck, Concert Band, Media Crew, Archibald Art Competition.

What will the new CAPA facilities at Jesmond Senior Campus mean for our students?

Learning and performing in one of the most cutting-edge creative spaces in the Hunter! The new building has a full-size stage and seating for more than 700, world leading production technologies, including theatrical sound and lighting, a black box stage for intimate performances, recording booths and studios, a large dance studio, as well as art and photography rooms and equipment. It also has a number of innovative new learning spaces for students to collaborate and create.

So, whether you are into music, performance, creating art, digital design or backend production, our new College CAPA facilities located at Jesmond Senior Campus will provide an excellent opportunity to enhance your skills.





News from the Gunya Room

This term we warmly welcome Luke Kendall as our new Head Teacher Transition and Engagement. Luke is a proud Wannarua man who grew up in Wiradjuri Country.



We ask Luke a little about himself....

What did you want to be when you were a kid?

I wanted to play in the AFL, sport was important to me growing up.

When you're not at work, what do you love doing?

Spending time at the beach or a park with my 3 kids, and playing golf.

Who or what inspires you?

Adam Goodes - people who stand up for others and the things they believe in.

What's the best book you've read?

Tuesdays with Morrie - "Accept who you are; and revel in it."

What do you want to achieve in your new role?

Create an environment at school where students and their families feel confident that they can be successful. Just to start.

Luke is working across the College and will be starting at Waratah Campus on Thursdays and Fridays. Students are encouraged to drop by the Gunya Room to introduce themselves. Families can contact Luke via our Administration Office.



Want to know what our students think of their teachers?

Check out some of the teacher shoutouts that were anonymously submitted by students...

To Miss Milat, English Teacher. You are by far the most understanding teacher. Every time someone is down you are there to talk to them and really listen. I really think you deserve a teacher shout out for all the great things you do. Keep on being amazing and being yourself.

A shoutout to Mr Ellul, Science Teacher. The eye dissection was a well planned productive lesson.

To Mr Papa, Japanese Teacher. Your lessons are always fun and taught in a way that's entertaining and easy to learn. Most of the time your lessons are the highlight of my day! One of the best teachers I've had. You deserve a shout out so you know how awesome you are!

A shoutout to Mr Hopkin, Science Teacher. Thank you for always teaching in a positive way and understanding how we feel in fifth period.

Mr Goodfellow, PDHPE Teacher. You are the best teacher ever and always make things easier than they are. You're always there if we need help. We love you sir :)

Shout out to Miss Parente, English Teacher. Thank you for the great, fantastic, brilliant lesson on Romeo and Juliet!

Did you know?

Research identifies Positive Teacher-Student Relations as one of the key drivers of student engagement in school. The results of the 2019 Tell Them From Me Student Survey revealed that positive relations between students and staff at Callaghan College Waratah Campus are well above the state average.

Talking to your teen about school

By our Learning and Support Team

Teenagers can be tight-lipped in discussing their needs and wants, not to mention their educational progress, especially with their parents. It is not surprising that sometimes you may be the last person to know when your teen is struggling with their learning at secondary school. That is why it pays to keep an eye for the following common warning signs:

Not talking about school

If your teen is having problems at school, their first reaction is usually to avoid the issue completely. They will fidget, change the subject, even leave the room to avoid a discussion about school.

Increased aggression.

When something is irritating a teen, it often manifests itself in more aggressive behaviour. They might be argumentative, difficult and moody - especially before they leave for, or after they arrive home from school.

Distant behaviour

If you notice your teen's energy levels are down or their behaviour is more detached and distant than usual, investigate the situation. It could be a sign that they are struggling in school.



What can you do if you notice your teen is struggling with learning?

You can start with these steps:

1. Talk to your teen about what you've noticed, and ask if there's anything worrying them.
2. Reach out to your teen's subject teacher, and ask if they have any concerns, or have noticed any changes.
3. Contact our Administration Office to arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher Learning and Support for you and your teen to discuss any problems.
4. If you are still concerned, consider contacting an independent counsellor to talk about the issues your teen is experiencing. If your teen will not attend with you, you can make an appointment for yourself as a starting point.

Canvas Sports Challenge Finals

It's been wonderful to see so many students staying active by taking part in our Canvas sports challenges and earning points for their House.

With the continued cancellation of CHS and Interschool Sport for Term 3, these challenges will have a big impact in determining our winning Sport House and student sport award recipients this year.

All challengers who submitted video evidence of their participation will compete in a finals competition this term for the chance to win an additional 4 points for their House and individual point score.

Last week we ran the finals for the basketball spinning and soccer juggling challenges. Congratulations to Nick and Shao Wei from Year 10 for taking out the win.



Shao Wei (Year 10) takes out the soccer juggling final earning 4 points for his House.

FAQs

Q. Will the school be continuing with whole school assemblies this term?

A. No. Roll call and our daily morning assembly will move back to our large outdoor COLA every morning. Monday assembly will occur in year groups rather than the whole school. This will only run for 15 minutes and will consist mainly of pre-filmed content. There will be no hand shaking when receiving certificates.

Q. Should my child be wearing a mask?

A. Although there is no directive for staff or students to wear masks, some may choose to do so and this remains a personal choice. We encourage families to take whatever precautions required to allow students to feel safe. Some students have started to wear masks, particularly when travelling on public transport.

Q. What's happened to school photos?

A. The production of our school photos has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The company has apologised and is working as hard as they can to get the photos produced during Term 3. We understand this is frustrating, but the company are working hard to fix this situation.

Q. Will the school be hosting Parent Teacher Evening this term?

A. No. We are still unable to hold this evening due to COVID-19 restrictions for schools. If you have concerns about your child's report in a particular subject please contact their teacher through our Administration Office.

Q. My child is a casual contact of students in isolation at St Pius or Francis Xavier, should they stay at home?

A. NSW Health advice is that casual contacts are NOT required to self isolate in their homes unless they develop symptoms. A casual contact is someone who has had face to face contact for less than 15 minutes cumulative over the course of a week or been in a closed space less than 2 hours with a person with a COVID-19 infection while they were infectious.

Q. What's happening with Semester 2 Reports?

A. At this stage we will issue the Semester 2 Report at the end of Term 4 in the usual format.

Q. What's happening with Assessments?

A. All formal assessments will continue as scheduled in terms 3 and 4 unless otherwise advised by your teen's teachers.

Administration Office Updates

We warmly welcome Terri Uzzell from Tomaree High School as our new School Administration Manager. Terri and her team have a couple of important updates for families:

New receipting times for payments

Our new receipting times for both over the counter and phone payments are 8:15am to 2pm. If you wish to make a payment outside these times please use the payment link on our website.

Administration Office closed every second Monday of the month between 2:20 and 2:40pm

On the second Monday of the month during school term from 2:20-2:40pm phones will be placed on night switch to allow our School Administration Faculty to have our staff meeting. If you call during this time please leave a message and we will assist you once we are back in the office.

These meetings are vital to allow our staff to discuss ways that we can best support the staff, students and families of our College. Thank you in advance for your support.



Communication to the School

Please remember that the best way to contact us if you have an enquiry is by phoning our Administration Office on (02) 4968 1939

If you are unable to make a phone call please use the school email :

waratah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au