Term Two is well underway and we are rapidly progressing towards key events in our students’ lives. I would like to congratulate the Year 9 cohort on the mature manner in which they have conducted themselves throughout the NAPLAN testing and look forward to seeing their results. NAPLAN provides us with a tool to measure our own assessments against and assists in identifying areas which need to be improved. All students will be sitting subject examinations this term in lead up to Semester 1 reports; revision of curriculum content at home in lead up to exams is crucial in maximising exam performance.

Attendance is recognised as a determining factor in success at school. Aside from ongoing illness, students should be present at school. A report released by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in 2013 stated, “The nature of the relationship between absence from school and achievement, across all sub-groups of students strongly suggests that every day of attendance in school contributes towards a child’s learning, and that academic outcomes are enhanced by maximising attendance in school. There is no “safe” threshold.”

So far this year, only 51% of our students have achieved the 90% and above attendance rate that is required for ongoing academic improvement. 23% of our students have at least one day off per week on average and evidence suggests that their results will be highly impacted by this.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be sending you a letter indicating your child’s attendance rate. If that rate sits below 90%, please make every effort to address any issues which have previously impacted upon attendance and set a goal to achieve 90% or above by the end of this school year. For further support in this, please contact Student Services at the relevant campus.

I look forward to seeing this improvement throughout the year. For your information I have provided a link to the Telethon Institute Report: http://telethonkids.org.au/media/472779/final_report_2013.pdf

Kim Savins
Principal
**Year 10 River Cruise**

A River Cruise will take place on Thursday 22 May departing from the Jetty at Mandurah performing Arts Centre. The Cruise will depart at 6.00pm and return at 9.00pm. The cost of the tickets are $30.00 and the students must have their good standing to be eligible to purchase a ticket.

![River Cruise Poster]

**Year 10-11 Course Selections**

Thank you to the large group of Year 10 students and parents who attended the information evening on Wednesday, 14th May. Year 10 students are currently working with Mentor teachers to explore the 2015 John Tonkin College Handbook and to learn about the many courses and Vocational Education and Training certificates that are available. Students will have the opportunity to talk to teachers and select the most appropriate educational pathway for senior school.

We will be writing to parents/guardians to invite you and your child to attend a course selection enrolment interview. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek expert advice from our experienced course counsellors.

**MET**

As of 2014, the John Tonkin College PET (Peel Education and Training) Campus has been re-named to MET (Mandurah Education and Training) Campus. We will however continue to use the old stationery until we need to order new supplies.

**Country week**

A Reminder the payment for Country week is due by Friday 23 May the cost is $370.00

We will be staying at Ern Halliday Recreation Camp

Ben Duke
Head of Learning Area
Health and Physical Education
CREATIVE EXPRESSION THROUGH MARINE DEBRIS

The Year 8, 9 and 10 students of the Department of Education approved Specialist Surf Science program have been involved in marine debris beach clean up activities, as part of the Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris Initiative (ADMI). This is an ongoing commitment that requires them not only to collect marine debris from our local beaches, but also sort debris and input data online to the ADMI database. The contribution to this process helps to track the type of debris, so strategies can be developed to prevent debris entering the marine environment.

As an extension to this community action students were invited to be involved in a ‘Creative Expression’ activity and create some artworks, out of the items they collected at beach clean-ups. The artworks formed part of the Tangaroa Blue display at the Mandurah Stretch Arts Festival on 3-4 May. Alison Dorn who is our Tangaroa Blue representative offered this opportunity to our students and assisted us through the process.

The Year 9 students collected the debris from the beach during Outdoor Education classes. Back at school, our Year 8 class worked cooperatively in small groups with limited resources (mainly debris) and within a tight time frame (3 hours) to produce artworks. Through this opportunity they practiced skills, knowledge and behaviours identified for a successful learner in the 21st century, including; critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical behaviour. At the same time it reinforced the authentic message about protecting our coastal environment.

Our students look forward to the opportunity to again be actively involved and be inspired to be future environmental leaders in our local community, through the Fishing Line Education project and the International Kids Teaching Kids Conference, held later this year.
**Good Luck**

We would like to extend our best wishes to Ms Bessant as she has been nominated for Positive Teaching Award 2014. This award is supported by the University of Western Australia, and acknowledges the outstanding contribution to the mental health and wellbeing of students and colleagues.

**JTC Indoor Soccer Tournament**

During term two, year 8 and 9 students are participating in an indoor soccer and basketball competition. Students will represent their house, Sutton (Blue), Tuckey (Green), Eacott (Red) and Hall (Yellow) to win house points for the whole school house points competition.

Please encourage your child to participate in these events and represent their house. Results and photographs will be included in the next newsletter.

---

**Parent Information Evening**

For children in Years 7 and 8 in 2015

Wednesday 28 May 2014
5:15pm

Enrolment process for 2015
Curriculum structure 2015
Application process for Approved Specialist Program in Surf Science (Year 8 students)

---

**Approved Specialist Program in Surf Science**

This program is designed for highly motivated students with a passion for science and outdoor activity.

Applications for 2015
Years 8, 9 and 10
Close Friday 25 July 2014
For an application package
T: 9583 7373
W: johntonkincollege.wa.edu.au/enrolment
Important Dates

Dates for your diary

21 & 22 May                        School Photos (MET)
26 May                                 School Photo Catch up
2 June                                  Public Holiday
3-6 June                              Years 8,9 & 12 Exams
9-13 June                             Years 10 & 11 Exams

Hosting French Students  (17th July- 18th August 2014)

For the last 8 years a programme has been in place offering the opportunity to young French students aged 16-17 years to discover Australia and its education system.

We are looking for families willing to host students for the four weeks of their visit ( two weeks would be fine as well if the family finds it more convenient and the student will then stay with 2 families )

The students will be part of a larger group of 25 students who spend 4 weeks with their respective school.

They will travel to and from School with your children.

The purpose of the programme is for these French students to experience living with an Australian family, to see how an Australian school operates, to improve their English language skills through this full immersion and to create a strong friendship with their Anglophone peers. The programme is highly successful and both Australians and French students greatly enjoy the exchange. Many families still keep in touch with each other.

The students are fully briefed about the school rules, are not to leave the school premises and will attend classes daily. They will be fully covered by appropriate insurance.

Host families will be visited prior to the arrival by the organiser to explain the programme.

We believe such an exchange is also highly beneficial for our Modern Languages students, opening their eyes (and ears!) to similarly minded students for an extended period.

Please contact Martine Floyd, email: aupairoz@iinet.net.au, mob: 0403 019 609
School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA)

John Tonkin College obtained a grant from SDERA (school drug education and road aware) to help improve and promote the health curriculum, develop a positive health environment and provide opportunity and information on health issues to parents and the school community.

In the last year we have used a portion of this grant to obtain our Bronze level Award by:

- Creating drug and alcohol, and road safety brochures which have been mailed out to the parents with enrolment packages. Copies are also available at the school.
- We have purchased signs to assist with the road safety, and improved Moped safety.
- We have updated and improved the Health curriculum.
- Conducted a Health Expo involving community groups and guest speakers.

In the coming year we are working towards our silver award and are planning to:

- Conduct a second Health Expo with a fitness focus.
- Increase parent involvement within the school through additional workshops on a variety of topics, as well as displays of students’ work.
- Conduct a follow up survey to parents and students regarding the school health programs and assistance in increasing information available to students and parent through the school website, Intranet and newsletters.

If you have any comments or queries please contact Che Heeley, coordinator of the CHAT program.

Young women’s program

Life Skills, health and wellbeing, exciting activities and lots of fun.

**When:** Tuesdays 3.30pm—6.00pm

**Age:** 1 – 17 Years old

**Cost:** $2.00

**Phone:** 95503670

**Website:** www.mandurah.wa.gov.au

Young men’s program

Life skills, workshops and great activities like surfing and boxing!

**When:** Mondays 3.30pm—6.00pm

**Age:** 11—17 Years old

**Cost:** $2.00

**Phone:** 95503670

**Website:** www.mandurah.wa.gov.au