Important Dates

Year 12 School Based Examinations

School based examinations for ALL students completing Stage 2/3 courses commence during the term 3 holidays on Wednesday, 9th October and will continue until Thursday, 17th October. **All students who are completing Stage 2/3 courses are required to sit the school based examinations.**

All Year 12 Stage 2/3 students have been issued with examination timetables.

Year 12 WACE Examinations (ATAR External Examinations)

The written WACE examinations for students completing Stage 2/3 courses will be from Friday, 1st November to Thursday, 28th November 2013.

**End of school** for students studying Stage 1 courses is **Friday, 18th October 2013.**

**End of school** for students studying Stage 2/3 courses is **Thursday, 24th October 2013.**

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre is on **Tuesday, 26th November 2013.**

From the Principal

It is timely in this period of change that the College celebrates some of the achievements throughout the term which highlight the unique programs and learning opportunities of our college.

Recently, the talents of our Year 11 and 12 photography and media students were on display with an exhibition and film evening, titled “Behind the Lens”. The photography pieces were produced by the students studying the photography courses including the Certificate II and III programs. Approximately 250 pieces were exhibited. While all exhibit pieces were of a very high standard and quality a particular mention goes to the winners of the photography prize recipients: Joy Smith “Through the Camera Lens”, Ruby Jackson “Used Up”, Kellie Leader “Dandelion”. Mr De Hoog is to be congratulated on presenting an exhibition of such a high professional standard.

As part of the ATAR assessment, the Year 12 Media students produced short films focussing on film art. The students participated in a media camp at Fairbridge, which provided the backdrop for their films. The short film demonstrated the students innovative and creative approach to the task where students were asked to create a documentary on an issue, person or event of their choice that utilised persuasive codes and conventions to present this viewpoint for a specific target audience. All films were of a high standard and quality. I congratulate both the students and Ms Fiona Hart on their commitment to this course of study. In addition to this I would like to thank the parents and public for supporting the staff and students by attending this event.

Under the leadership and guidance of Ms Miels, a number of our Year 8 students were fortunate enough to participate in the Kids Teaching Kids 2013 South-West WA Youth Climate, Coast and Communities Conference. This event was mainly centred on the peer-teaching methodology which involved our students teaching other students an authentic message about protecting our coastal environment. The key topics our students presented in interactive workshops were about over fishing, bio-catch, protecting of crayfish and marron and valuing are coastal environment. The activities on the first day of the Kids Teaching Kids Conference culminated with a celebration dinner at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. This involved a sit down dinner, entertainment and dancing. All the students enjoyed this celebration and were exemplary ambassadors for John Tonkin College. Thank you to Ms Miels for providing our students with such a rich learning opportunity.

In addition to this I would like to wish the Year 12 ATAR students every success with their exams. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our 2013 Year 12 students at the formal graduation ceremony on Tuesday November 26 2013.

Ms Catherine Shepherd
As you would be aware, recent media reports have outlined a number of funding areas and processes that will change in 2014 and 2015 for public schools in Western Australia following the Government changes to educational funding.

On behalf of the Board of John Tonkin College, I am writing to inform you of the challenges this will have on John Tonkin College. The college will lose the equivalent of 6.9 staff positions (minimum). While it is clear that the college will have to work differently within the revised staffing and resource allocations, the college sees this as an opportunity to review and refine current practices and programs.

John Tonkin College prides itself on the ability to offer the breadth of curriculum necessary to cater for the diversity of students we enrol. While aspects of this breadth may be impacted on, it is important to note that the college has been proactive in its ability to forward plan, both for the predicted half cohort in 2014 and its ability to continue to sustain some subjects that given the funding changes, would not normally have been able to have been continued.

Our academic leaders and teachers will continue to deliver the following unique programs and opportunities in 2014-5 which include and are not restricted to:-
- Marine Studies and Outdoor Pursuits, the Approved Department of Education Specialist Program
- Curtin University Spatial Science partnership program and App design
- CiSCO (Aries) & computer technology
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Robotics
- ATAR revision seminars
- Career development program – psychometric profiling
- Workplace Learning

In addition to this, the college will expand the delivery of courses to provide students with greater access to the John Tonkin College Marine Centre and Murdoch University Specialist laboratories; as well as strengthening partnerships with The City of Mandurah; Curtin University; Murdoch University; Challenger Institute of Technology; Bendigo Community Bank – Halls Head; Mandurah Muskateers and our local in-take primary schools.

Our college leaders are not opposed to change and reform but they understand it must be carefully managed in consultation with the John Tonkin College Board. Staff members will be charged with implementing the change to ensure any model continued is sustainable and promotes a strong public education system at John Tonkin College.


I encourage you to support the staff at John Tonkin College through this period of change.

Emeritus Professor Jo Barker
John Tonkin College Board - Chair
Kids Teaching Kids

The Year 8 students of the Department of Education approved Surf Science (Marine Science and Outdoor Studies) specialist program participated in Kids Teaching Kids 2013 South-West WA Youth Climate, Coast and Communities Conference. This was a regional event hosted by the City of Mandurah on the 29-30 August, which included participation of approximately ten schools in the South-West WA region.

This event was mainly centred on the peer-teaching methodology that involved our students teaching other students an authentic message about protecting our coastal environment. The key topics our students presented in interactive workshops were about over fishing, bio-catch, protecting of crayfish and marron and valuing are coastal environment. The topics, content and instructional approach were decided and developed by the students. The methodology was practiced and tested in lead up activities when the Year 8 class acted as peer teachers with Year 7 students from North Mandurah Primary School. Through this opportunity they refined and developed their teaching skills as they taught about marine science aspects and conventions for developing posters, as part of the WA Premiers’ competition in search of a new official marine emblem.

The activities on the first day of the Kids Teaching Kids Conference culminated with a celebration dinner at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. This involved a sit down dinner, entertainment and dancing. All the students enjoyed this celebration and were exemplary ambassadors for John Tonkin College.

The activities on the second day of the Kids Teaching Kids Conference ranged from: Marine Debris, Waste Management, Bird Watching, Indigenous Cultural Perspectives related to the Coastal Environment and a Millennium Kids workshop, with our contributions being published in a future book about the Thrombolites at Lake Clifton.

The students clearly benefited from the program as they were not only empowered as decision makers and communicators of the meaningful messages in the local community but learnt new messages from peers and other key environmental educators.

Next year the City of Mandurah will be hosting the National Kids Teaching Kids Conference and our students look forward to the opportunity to again be actively involved and also be inspired to be future environmental leaders in our local community.

Ms T Miels
Year 8 Children’s Story Project

Ten Year 8 John Tonkin College students were warmly welcomed into one of North Mandurah Primary School’s Year 2 classes on Friday, 20th September.

The Year 8 students took with them beautifully written and crafted children’s story-books that they had begun to produce during The Big Day Out held at the end of Term 2. The students had spent hours finishing their story-books to a very high standard, many of them devoting hours of their own time to complete the books on time.

John Tonkin College students read their story-books to the Year 2 students who clearly enjoyed the original plots, characters and illustrations. In return, Year 2 students read aloud their practice readers and seemed to revel in our students’ undivided attention.

The Children’s Story Project books have now been donated to the library of North Mandurah Primary School for all the primary school children to enjoy.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Watson, Year 2 teacher for being so receptive to our visit and to Mrs Bessant , Year 8 Co-ordinator, for working so energetically with the Year 8 students to encourage the books’ completion.

Ms Helen Salter
English Teacher

Years 8 – 10 Examinations

Years 8-10 examinations will occur on Monday, 28th October and Tuesday, 29th October.

All Year 8, 9 and 10 students will sit examinations in the four core subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Society and Environment.

Please note: The Years 8-10 examinations are a component of the semester two assessment schedule. Students will be completing a range of assessment tasks leading up to the end of the school year.
Graduation Ceremony

The annual John Tonkin College Graduation Ceremony acknowledges and celebrates the achievement of secondary graduation. Only students who have fulfilled the requirements of secondary graduation participate in the Graduation Ceremony.

The Graduation Ceremony will be held at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 26th November 2013. On that day students are also invited to attend a Graduation Breakfast at John Tonkin College Learning Street commencing at 8.00am with food being served at 8.15am. This will be followed by a compulsory rehearsal at 10.00am at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Ormsby Terrace which will conclude at approximately 12 noon. Students will need to be at the MPAC by 6pm that evening and the ceremony commences at 7.00pm. Students are reminded this is a formal event and a high standard of dress is essential.

Tickets for the ceremony will be sold from the Finance Office and you will need to show your receipt at the front desk of the Administration Office at the College to collect your tickets and select your seats. These will be available 8.30am to 3pm every day during the period Tuesday 22nd October to Friday 15th November 2013 at a cost of $15 each.

There will be a limit of two (2) tickets per graduating student due to seating restrictions. (Graduands do not need a ticket). It is unlikely there will be extra tickets available because of the large number of students graduating.

Students are strongly advised to purchase their tickets early. Unsold tickets will be available from 19th November 2013 until sold out.

Awards and scholarships

Community awards and study scholarships are now advertised.

If you are interested in applying, collect an application form from Student Services Office and submit your application on or before Friday 27th September 2013.

Dr. Kim Ong Scholarship and Freemason’s Scholarship are due by Friday 25th October 2013.

Clearance Forms

Clearance forms will be available from the beginning of next term and need to be completed prior to the leaving date.

Careers Counselling

Career counselling is available by appointment in Student Services.

Student Services will be available to assist with any points requiring clarification or any concerns.

Best wishes go to all students at this exciting and busy time of the year!

AT THE GRADUATION REHEARSAL BRING IN YOUR UNWANTED SCHOOL UNIFORM PIECES AND SWAP THEM FOR A CHOCOLATE
Advanced Standing and Good Standing

Students who achieve Advanced Standing will be formally recognized at the Graduation Ceremony.

Students who achieved Advanced Standing in all Year 10, 11 and 12 will receive a special memento. Students must have Good Standing to attend the ceremony. Students should have seen their Advocates for information or to make a claim of Advanced Standing prior to Friday 27th September 2013.

Lists of students who have attained Advanced standing for year 10 in 2011 and year 11 in 2012 will be displayed on the canteen windows and outside Student Services Office from Monday 26th August, 2013.

If students believe they have attained Advanced standing and their names are not displayed they should speak to Mrs Rennie in Student services ASAP.

References

Year 12 students should have applied to receive a John Tonkin College Reference when they complete Year 12. Students should have completed a Reference Application Form, available from Student Services. The reference will include information in regard to allocation of Advanced Standing status in year 10, 11 and/or 12.

The reference will be provided as part of the graduation portfolio. These must be returned to Student Services by Friday 27th September 2013.

Advanced standing for 2013 cannot be advertised until statement of results is available after the 1st of November 2013. The list will be forwarded to staff completing references.

Leavers Dates

The last day for Stage One Year 12s – Friday 18th October 2013.
The last day for Stage Two/Three Exam candidates – Friday 25th October 2013.

Memorabilia Photos

Student Executives are putting together a photographic record of 2011 and 2012 and 2013 for year 12 students. We are short of photos for the ball and personal events from the college. Please bring USB photos to Student Services ASAP.