

Collingwood Park State Secondary College

Term 2 Newsletter



Message from the Principal – Ben Jack

Celebrating our First Semester at CPSSC

As we reach the end of our first semester, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements we have accomplished together as a school community. It has been a truly exciting and rewarding term, filled with growth, learning, and a strong sense of belonging. This first semester has certainly flown by as our students have settled in and become familiar with the routines, expectations, and opportunities of their new school. It's been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, form new friendships, and embrace the many experiences on offer. Their energy, curiosity, and resilience have been a highlight of the term.

From the enthusiasm in our classrooms to the creativity on display in our arts and technology subjects, the energy and effort of our students has been outstanding. Our sporting teams, cultural groups and our newly appointed student leaders have all made their mark, representing our school with pride and commitment. It has been particularly rewarding to see the way our values are enacted each day—through acts of kindness, resilience in learning, and support for one another.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff and the continued support from our families. Together, we are building a school culture that is inclusive, aspirational, and focused on each student achieving their best.

As we head into the break, I encourage all families to take the opportunity to rest, recharge, and spend time together. Thank you for your partnership and trust in our school. I look forward to what we will achieve together in Semester 2.

Please continue to follow us on Facebook. By following our Facebook page you'll be the first to know about upcoming events, student achievements, highlights from around the school, reminders, and opportunities to get involved and support our community.

Our P&C

I'm excited to begin working with our newly formed Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) in Semester 2. This passionate and committed team is ready to make a meaningful difference in our school community. I look forward to the partnerships, ideas, and opportunities we'll create together to support our students and strengthen our school. We now have 4, P&C executive members including a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Ben Jack
Principal

Message from Mr Horskins – Year 7 Deputy Principal

As we approach the end of Term 2, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic progress our Year 7 students have made during their first semester of high school.

It has been heartening to see how well our Year 7s continue to transition into secondary school life. They are growing in confidence, learning new routines, making connections across the school, and developing into responsible young learners. Their adaptability and enthusiasm have made the year so far a very positive one.

A special commendation goes to our Year 7 students who participated in the recent school immunisation program. It was wonderful to see so many brave students stepping up and showing maturity throughout the process. These moments remind us of how quickly they are growing up and adapting to new challenges.

In the coming weeks, there will be some changes to Year 7 classes, including both students and teaching staff. These adjustments are being made thoughtfully, with the aim of maximising learning outcomes and ensuring that every student is in the best possible environment to succeed. We thank you for your support and understanding as we work to support the needs of all students.

Lastly, a big thank you to the group of Year 7 students who represented our school at the Woodlinks State School Under 8s Day. They did a fantastic job assisting with activities and interacting with younger students. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to demonstrate leadership and community spirit — they did us proud!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are proud of our Year 7 students and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive throughout the rest of the year.

Dan Horskins
Deputy Principal – Year 7

Message from Ms Downie – Year 8 Deputy Principal

We are excited to share some wonderful updates and celebrations from across our school community as we end our first semester at Collingwood Park State Secondary College.

New Class for year 8s in Semester 2

Due to our continued growth in student enrolments, we are pleased to announce the creation of a **new class commencing in Semester 2** for year 8s. Thank you to our school community for your ongoing support as we welcome new families and students into our school.

Student Leadership – CP Ambassadors

Our **CP Ambassadors** are showing exceptional leadership within the school. These students serve as role models, supporting peers, assisting in events, and promoting the school PARK Values. Their dedication and initiative are an inspiration, and we are proud of the way they represent our core values both inside and outside the classroom.

Reconciliation Week 2025

This year's **Reconciliation Week** theme, *"Bridging Now to Next"*, resonated strongly across our school. Students participated in an art project that saw the creation of a leaf bridge proudly displayed in our Library.



Semester 2 at CPSSC

We will be kicking off semester two with NAIDOC week! There will be loads of activities for students to participate in.



THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

Semester 2, will also see our year 8 students preparing for year 9 through subject selections! Families will receive further information during semester 2 about the selection process, and we encourage open conversations at home to support students in making informed choices that suit their learning goals and passions.

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud of the positive, inclusive, and thriving learning environment we are building together. We look forward to a successful semester 2 ahead!

Danni Downie
Deputy Principal - Year 8

Message from Mr McKay – Pathways Deputy Principal

Cert III School-Based Education Support Program

In partnership with *Strategix*, our community members undertaking the *Certificate III in School-Based Education Support* have now completed their final theory lesson. These dedicated students will now move into the next phase of their qualification — completing 100 hours of practical placement. This invaluable hands-on experience will take place across our own College, as well as Redbank Plains State High School and Collingwood Park State School. We congratulate their commitment to pursuing a career in education and look forward to seeing their skills grow in our schools.

Ready for the Future Committee – VET

As we prepare to become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), our *Ready for the Future Committee* is actively reviewing potential VET course offerings across our Senior School. We are focused on delivering a senior curriculum that is strongly linked to industry and employment needs both within and beyond our local community. A number of staff have expressed strong interest in becoming VET trainers and will undertake their VET Skill Set training in 2025. These opportunities will allow CPSSC to deliver a senior curriculum that empowers students with nationally recognised qualifications right here at school.

2026 Recruitment Begins – Join Us!

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to announce that recruitment has begun! CPSSC will be hosting our Twilight Open Event on Thursday, 24 July from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for university graduates, current teachers, office administration staff, cleaners, and support staff to explore future employment at our growing school.

Visitors will have the chance to tour the College, meet our leadership team, and hear about the inspiring vision and inclusive culture that make CPSSC such a vibrant place to work and learn. If you're passionate about education and want to be part of a supportive and forward-thinking school community, we warmly invite you to attend.

Together, we are building brighter futures — for our students, our staff, and our community

Bonnie McKay
Deputy Principal

Message from Ms Egan – Guidance Officer

This term we have been lucky to have the Youth Workers from The Base Youth Service coming in to run the award-winning program RAGE: Renegotiating Anger and Guilty Emotions. This small group program teaches young people how to manage intense emotions like anger. We will be running another small group next term.

We are excited to welcome Megan Lavell to our team this term. Megan is our new Student Support Officer and will work alongside me and our other wonderful support staff in building belonging and engagement among our school community. Megan has a wealth of experience, and we are very lucky to have her!

Many families are doing it tough at the moment with the rising cost of living and housing stress. There are many support services out there that you can access in times of need. Please visit the Ipswich City Council resource library (link below) and look for the “Just in case” card link. This card contains lots of information about services like accommodation, meals, food hampers and emergency help.

https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/services/emergency_management/resource-library

Culture and Community Night – Term 4!

We are now seriously gearing up for our very first culture and community celebration. I have been running a competition and voting survey to name the event with students and staff sending through many suggestions. Please save the date: Thursday October 16th! We also need your help! If you can help in any of the following ways, please get in touch with me by email.

- Teaching cultural dance and performing with the students to support them. Being so young, they are very shy and need their older family members to guide and encourage them. We would welcome family members who are willing to come and dance with the students.
- Do you or your family members sing or play music? We would love to welcome you to perform! Let me know!
- What about singing your national anthem in your language?
- Helping the students with costumes.
- Let me know if you have any other ideas 😊

Tracey Egan
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Message from Mr Harvey— Head of Department HPE

Sports Department Term 2 Wrap-Up & What's Ahead!

It's been a fantastic term of sport and team spirit at CPSSC with students showing outstanding effort, sportsmanship and pride across a range of events!

We kicked off the term with our **annual school cross country**, where students ran their hearts out. Congratulations to **Wamangan** for taking out the overall win—an impressive effort by all involved!

The competition didn't stop there! Our much-anticipated **handball competition** saw great skill and energy on display, with Kade from Dibal taking out the top spot. Well done, Kade!

In Week 9, our **soccer teams proudly wore their brand-new jerseys** as they headed out to compete in the **Yagera Carnival**. It was a great opportunity for our players to represent the school and put their training into action.

Looking ahead, Term 3 is shaping up to be just as exciting. Early in the term, our **Rugby League, Netball and Volleyball teams** will be heading out to compete. We know they'll do us proud both on and off the field.

And don't forget—**this Friday is our Athletics Carnival!** It's always a highlight on the school calendar, so be sure to come along and cheer on our students as they give it their all.

What a term it's been, and there's still more to come. Well done to all students who have participated—you make our school proud!

Jarrold Harvey

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Message from Ms Williams – Head of Department Mathematics and Science

Term 2 has brought a great deal of excitement and engagement in the areas of Mathematics and Science.

In Mathematics, students have completed units focused on measurement and space. They also undertook their first PSMT-style assignment. A PSMT (Problem-Solving and Modelling Task) prepares students for their pathway into Senior Mathematics, where this style of assignment is a requirement. A PSMT requires students to:

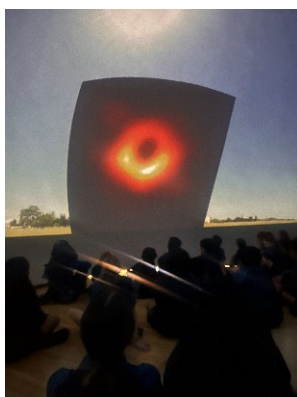
- Work through a real-life maths problem or investigation
- Use information and materials provided to guide their thinking
- Follow a clear process to solve and explain the problem
- Show their understanding using maths language, calculations, graphs, tables, and diagrams

In Science, Year 7 students explored the fascinating world beyond Earth through their Space Science unit. Year 8 students completed a unit on Biology, investigating key body systems such as the respiratory, digestive, and circulatory systems.

It has been fantastic to see students immersing themselves in the engaging world of science this term. The term concluded with an exciting incursion to the SpaceDome!



The show explored topics such as eclipses, seasons, and tides. Students extended their knowledge by learning about black holes and how they are formed. They also had the exciting opportunity to view real-life images of a black hole, captured by the Event Horizon Telescope ([more information here](#)).



Students continued their investigations by exploring moon phases using Oreos and testing forces by building (and testing) parachutes with eggs. These activities helped form a meaningful connection between their current Space Science unit and the upcoming Physics unit next term.



Message from Mr Betts – Head of Department Digital Technologies

Virtual Reality

This term, CPSSC students have been stepping into new worlds—literally! Virtual Reality (VR) has officially launched across multiple subjects, bringing learning to life like never before. From exploring the solar system in Science to immersing in historical environments and more, students have embraced this cutting-edge technology with excitement and curiosity. And we're just getting started—next term, even more subjects will be integrating VR experiences into their lessons. The future of learning is here, and it's virtual!

During Weeks 6 and 7, our Year 7 Science students have explored a virtual solar system, where they simulated solar and lunar eclipses, viewed the sun at true scale, and experienced the seasons through Western, Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal calendars.

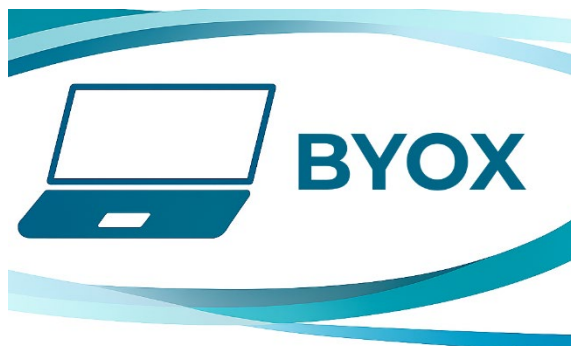


During History Week, our students didn't just learn about the past—they stepped into it! Using Virtual Reality, students explored the Great Wall of China, wandered through ancient marketplaces, and even boarded Viking ships. These immersive experiences helped bring ancient civilisations to life, sparking curiosity and deeper understanding in a way that textbooks alone can't match.



BYOX

Collingwood Park SSC continues to utilise our BYO resources every lesson every day to ensure our students are future-ready 21st century learners! Thank you to all students and families who are ensuring students have a fully charged laptop ready every day!



Digital Technologies

Our Digital Technologies students have been diving into the world of coding and electronics with Arduino! This term, students have been building real-world circuits, programming LED lights, and experimenting with sensors and LCD displays. These hands-on projects are helping students develop problem-solving skills, creativity, and a deeper understanding of how technology works behind the scenes.

Justin Betts
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Message from Ms McNichol – Head of Department Arts

Art Students Explore the Theme of Identity

This term in Visual Art, our students have been on a creative journey exploring the theme of **Identity**. Through a range of discussions and activities, students reflected on who they are—examining their **personal interests**, **cultural backgrounds**, and **family influences**.

To express these ideas visually, each student designed and created a **clay mask**, using **symbolism** to represent different aspects of their identity. The process included brainstorming, planning, sculpting, and experimenting with form and texture to bring their unique stories to life.

Currently, students are **painting their masks**, using colour and detail to enhance the meaning behind each piece.

We are incredibly proud of the thought and creativity students have shown throughout this unit. These powerful artworks will be featured in the upcoming **Term 4 Cultural Evening**, where families will have the opportunity to view the finished masks on display.

We look forward to celebrating your child's creative achievements and cultural voice at this special event.

Susan McNichol

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Message from Ms Stephens– Head of Department English and Humanities

As we close the chapter on Term 2, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the creativity, curiosity and critical thinking that has filled English and Humanities classrooms.

In Year 8 English, students became analysts of the screen, unpacking how *Surviving Summer* uses language and visual features to shape audience perception and create believable characters. Their responses showed maturity, insight, and a growing command of analytical writing. Meanwhile, Year 7s finished the term with flair, polishing their creative recounts and demonstrating an impressive ability to bring personal stories and imagined experiences to life.

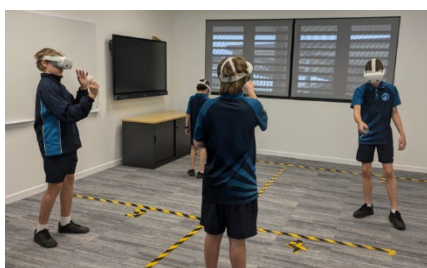
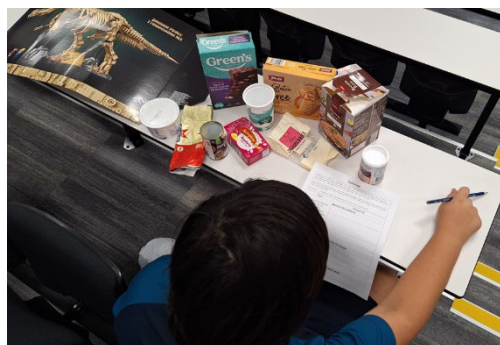
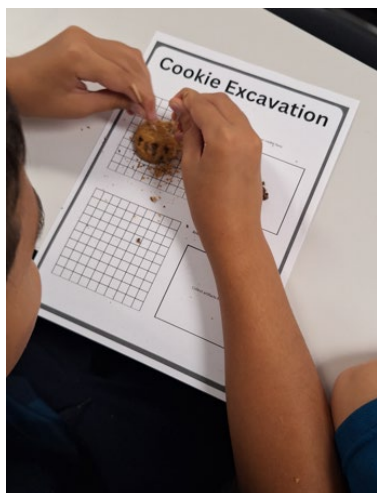
One of the standout moments this term was our vibrant History Week celebrations in Week 6, led by The Humanities Department. The school came alive with lunchtime activities that made history hands-on and engaging. Students sifted through 'rubbish' in our garbology investigation, carefully excavated chocolate chip cookies to explore archaeological techniques, competed in a mega History Kahoot quiz, and travelled back in time through VR experiences of Ancient Rome and Ancient China. It was a joy to watch students embrace the past with such enthusiasm and imagination.

A special congratulations goes to the small but mighty group of Year 7 and 8 students who took part in the Australian History Competition. We look forward to receiving their results early next term and celebrating their efforts at a future school assembly.

Looking ahead, Term 3 will bring another exciting event: Book Week. Led by The English Department in Week 6, Book Week will celebrate the power of storytelling and the joy of reading with activities designed to inspire every reader in our community.

We're proud of everything our students have accomplished this term and can't wait to see where their learning takes them next.

Lauren Stephens
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Message from Mr Amin Iskak – Design and Technologies Teacher

Design and Technologies were thrilled to start using the brand-new wood and metal workshops in Term 1. Collingwood Park State Secondary College has such a comprehensive and evolving facility for junior high school students to explore the craft skills of woodworking, metalworking and design.



Metal Workshop



Wood Workshop



Theory Room

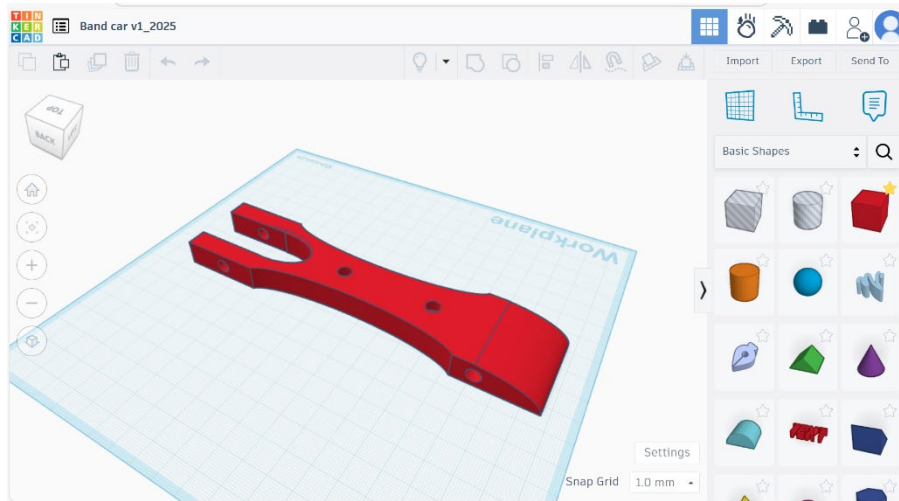
Hands on learning

The workshops provide students with a unique opportunity to develop practical skills using a variety of hand tools and machinery. Students learnt the fundamentals of design, fabrication, and finishing while creating their own projects.

Tools & Equipment:

- Saws
- Drills
- Sanders
- Various hand tools

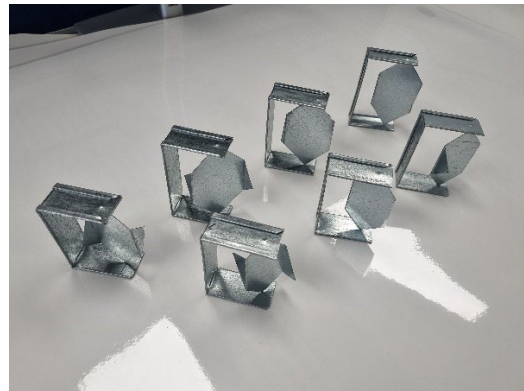
Students are guided by experienced instructors who prioritize safety and proper technique. They learn to safely operate each piece of equipment and gain confidence in their abilities to transform raw materials into finished products. The workshop is designed to foster creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork among students. From intricate woodworking projects to robust metal structures, the possibilities are endless!



Designing rubber band car using Tinkercad



Rubber band car



Spinning toy



Metal dust pan

A Bright Future

The junior wood and metal workshops represents a significant investment in the future of Collingwood Park State Secondary College students. By providing them with access to hands-on learning experiences and the elements of design, the school aims to equip them with valuable skills that will benefit them in their future academic and career pursuits.

We're looking forward to seeing the incredible creations that will come out of these workshops in the years to come!

Mr Amin Iskak

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Message from Ms Fry— Drama Teacher

Year 7 Drama Students Dive into the World of Melodrama

This term in Year 7 Drama, students have stepped into the exciting and exaggerated world of *melodrama*—a theatrical style filled with over-the-top characters, heightened emotions, and dramatic storylines. With enthusiasm and creativity, students have embraced this genre, learning valuable skills that are essential for confident performance and stage presence.

Throughout the unit, students have developed their ability to read and interpret scripts, understanding how to bring characters to life. They explored classic melodramatic archetypes such as the hero, villain, victim, and comic sidekick, and experimented with vocal tone, body language, and facial expression to portray these roles with flair and conviction.

Refining their performance skills has been a key focus. Students have worked on projecting their voices, using clear articulation, and exaggerating movement and emotion—all vital in melodramatic performance. They've also built teamwork and communication skills through group rehearsals and collaborative scene development.

A highlight of the unit was the use of props and sound effects to enhance their performances. Students showed creativity in selecting items that reflected their scenes, helping to create vivid and memorable performances. Whether it was selecting suspenseful music, creaking door sounds or a cursed locket, each item added an extra layer of storytelling.

This journey into melodrama has not only built students' drama skills but also boosted their confidence and imagination. The unit has provided a strong foundation for future performances and strengthened their communication skills which will support them in their other curriculum areas as well.

Ms Fry
sffry0@eq.edu.au

Message from Mrs Cox— Food Specialist Teacher

Blending Knowledge and Nutrition: Creativity with Healthy Smoothies!

This term in Food Specialisations, students have been exploring nutrition, learning how to make informed food choices and apply their knowledge in practical, hands-on ways. One of the highlights of the term has been their exploration of healthy smoothies - a fun and nutritious way to combine flavour and creativity!

Throughout the unit, students have developed their understanding of:

- Nutritional balance – learning how to combine fruits, vegetables, dairy products and protein sources to create smoothies that are both tasty and nourishing.
- Food safety and hygiene – practicing safe food handling and preparation techniques in the kitchen.
- Sensory evaluation – using taste, texture, aroma, and appearance to refine their recipes.
- Sustainability – considering seasonal produce and reducing food waste in their ingredient choices.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of ingredients to craft their own signature drinks. The smoothie assessment task not only encouraged healthy eating habits but also fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and presentation skills. Many students proudly shared their creations with classmates, explaining their ingredient choices, the health benefits of their smoothies, and the inspiration behind their flavour combinations.

We're incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort our students have shown this term and look forward to welcoming new students into the subject in Semester 2.

Mrs Cox
ccox88@eq.edu.au

