



John Tonkin College
Education Support Centre

Engage | Educate | Enrich | Empower



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

ENGAGE | EDUCATE | ENRICH | EMPOWER



Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. We pay respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the heritage and connections of the Bindjareb people of the Noongar Nation.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2026 school year. It is hard to believe how quickly the year is already flying by and what a positive start it has been.

This year, we are pleased to welcome 19 new Year 11 students from Halls Head ESC and other schools across the district, along with several new and returning staff members. Sarah Bastow has joined us as our Art Specialist, Danielle Du Plessis and Jane Thomas are supporting the school while a staff member is on leave, and we welcome Duncan Sanders back after spending a year at another school.

Alongside classroom learning in literacy, numeracy and health, students have been engaged in programs including Sustainability, Wellbeing, Workshop, Art, Cooking, Physical Education and Cadets, supporting their practical skills, independence and wellbeing.

Students (and staff!) have enjoyed several excursions already this year. In Week 6, the whole school attended the Netball Funday in Jolimont, a highlight for many. Classes have also visited the State Emergency Service, Bowling in Rockingham, Chorus painting workshops, Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Pinjarra, and welcomed the Billy Dower Youth Centre for a lunchtime visit.

Our Workplace Learning programs continue to be a great success. Several students from FG03 have attended workplace learning at Lotteries House, assisting with gardening duties. Two of our Year 12 students have commenced their workplace learning journey with Intelife, and one Year 11 student has successfully returned to a placement at Woolworths, where he now works two days a week after requesting to continue a placement he undertook in Year 10.

As we look ahead to a busy Term 2, I'd like to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for their ongoing support and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

Kristin Lucas
Principal



BRUNCH CAFE

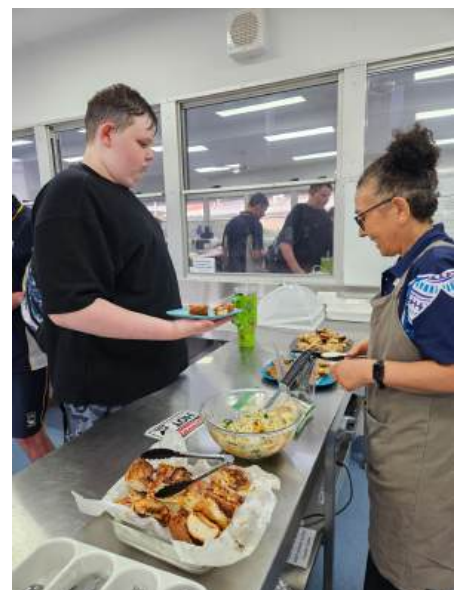
Brunch Café continues to be a wonderful space where students can come together, share food, and connect with one another. It not only encourages positive social interaction, but also gives students the opportunity to explore and enjoy new foods.

The recent hot weather has limited what we've been able to harvest from the school vegetable garden. However, we're looking forward to more favourable conditions next term, which will allow us to grow a wider variety of produce for use in Brunch Café.

Wishing everyone a well-deserved break – I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2!

Filomena Maranta

Brunch Cafe Coordinator



FG04



It has been a busy and rewarding term! From the classroom to the sports field, our students have been diving into new challenges and rediscovering the joy of learning together. As Seth aptly put it, "It has been good to be back at school and hang out with my friends."

Technology and tactile learning took centre stage this term. Students explored geometry and architecture through virtual worlds and paper crafts.

- Corey: "We made origami cranes (birds), and we built houses in Minecraft."
- Ambher: "This term we learnt some braille, we did directions in Minecraft... we've also been learning how to do perimeter and diameter."

Communication and practical math were key focuses. Many students used their new IT skills to reach out to their idols.

- Lucas: "We learned how to do emails. I sent emails to MR B and to Essendon Football Club. We also learned how to do measurements in maths."
- Dylan: "We have sent emails to our favourite team. I also made a new friend this year."

Whether in the kitchen, on the court, or in the community, our students are finding their "groove" and building confidence.

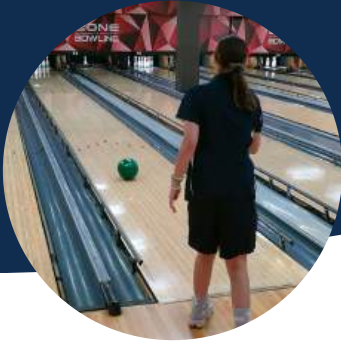
- Chanel: "I found out I'm so good at netball, I love my cooking, and I am good at cadets. Go Claremont and Carlton!"

It is inspiring to see our students excel across such a broad range of activities. Well done to everyone on a fantastic term!

David Bennett

Teacher





Term 1 has been fantastic! We have welcomed several new students while also enjoying the return of many familiar faces. It's been wonderful to see our class continue to grow and make the most of the life skills opportunities available.

We began the term by creating weekly timetables using Canvas. This has helped students understand exactly where they need to be each session and each day, giving them a clear routine and a sense of confidence about what to expect.

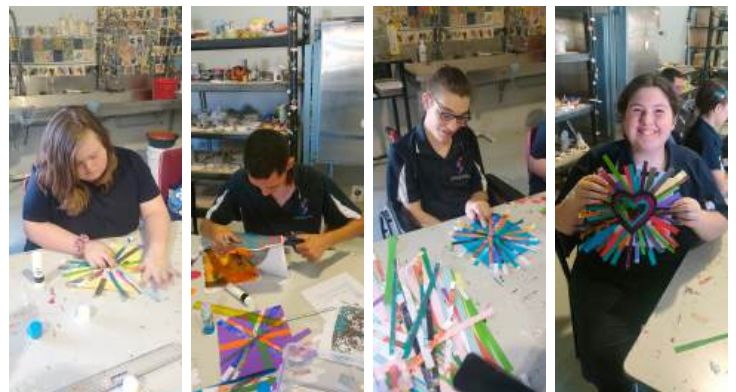
As always, it has been a busy and engaging term. Our class has taken on the responsibility of running the Monday morning brunch café. Students prepare a range of items, including Weet-Bix slice, cheese toasties, chicken and mayonnaise toasties, and pancakes. Through this, they are learning valuable skills such as kitchen safety, reading recipes, and measuring ingredients accurately.

We also enjoyed an excursion to Zone Bowling, where both students and staff had a great time. Students practised taking turns, socialising with others, and making choices when purchasing their own snacks and drinks.

Another highlight has been our visits to Chorus, where students have been involved in a variety of creative arts and crafts activities.

In addition, our students have been working incredibly hard at Backpack Buddies. We are very grateful for the opportunity to partner with Bridge Builders and contribute positively to supporting our community.

We are proud of everything our students have achieved this term and look forward to another wonderful year ahead.



Tarryn Lambert
Teacher

CADETS



The 2026 Cadet year has begun with great energy as students dive into core cadet values and learn the accompanying Auslan signs to support communication and inclusion.

First Aid Training

Our cadets have been hard at work developing their first aid knowledge and confidence. This term, students have been memorising the Emergency Action Plan for a range of medical situations, including snake bites, fractures, and bleeding. Students have also completed introductory CPR training using Resus Annie and practised operating a training defibrillator, building vital life-saving skills.

Behind the Scenes at Mandurah SES

This term, our cadets were fortunate to visit the Mandurah SES for an engaging behind-the-scenes experience. Students explored specialist rescue equipment and gained valuable insight into how the call centre operates during emergency situations. A sincere thank you to the dedicated SES volunteers who generously shared their time, knowledge, and real-world experiences, giving our cadets a deeper understanding of emergency services and community service.

Celebrating Excellence

A huge congratulations to Natalie Harris and Sharan Hegney, who were recognised at the 2026 Youth Programs Awards Evening. Natalie Harris received the Emergency Services Cadet Corps Instructor Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution and dedication. Both Natalie and Sharan have devoted over 20 years to supporting and teaching cadets at JTCEC, shaping the program into the success it is today. Their commitment, leadership, and passion continue to inspire our students and strengthen our cadet community.

Meagan Green
Cadet Trainer



ART



Hello to all parents, carers, and members of our wider school community,

My name is Miss Sarah Bastow, and I am the Visual Arts specialist teacher for 2026. As a graduate teacher, I am very excited to begin my teaching journey and feel fortunate to be part of the wonderful community here at JTCEC.

Throughout this term, students have been developing their drawing skills through more structured learning experiences, while also building a range of foundational skills essential for success in Visual Arts. Alongside practical work, we have been focusing on strengthening students' ability to discuss and describe artworks using appropriate visual arts language. This supports their appreciation of well-known artists, their peers' work, and their own creative outcomes.

These skills will continue to develop and will culminate in an exciting ceramic project that students will begin next term.

I look forward to sharing more of our students' creative achievements with you as the year progresses.

Sarah Bastow
Teacher



WORKSHOP

Our school workshop has been a whirlwind of activity lately, and the results are nothing short of impressive! Students recently wrapped up two major projects that challenged both their precision and their imagination: **hand-crafted wooden pencil boxes** and **upcycled "junkbots."**

The classroom has been buzzing with the sound of sanding and the occasional whirr of a cordless screw driver. What makes these projects even more successful is the incredible responsibility shown by our students. We are proud to report a **perfect safety record** this semester. From consistent eye protection to meticulous tool handling, the students have proven that they can have an absolute blast while remaining focused and safe.

David Bennett

Teacher



COOKING



In our Food Science and Technology classes, students have been focusing on the essential topic of health and safety in the kitchen. Learning how to handle equipment correctly, maintain hygiene, and work safely is a key part of becoming confident and capable cooks.

Each week, students can put these skills into practice by preparing a different recipe. So far, they have made a variety of delicious dishes including pancakes, pizza subs, hamburgers, curried sausages with rice, fried rice, scrambled eggs, and chocolate chip cookies.

It has been fantastic to see students growing in confidence and independence as they cook. They are developing important skills such as measuring ingredients, following instructions, and working as part of a team.

We are very proud of their effort and enthusiasm. Keep up the great work, everyone—we look forward to many more tasty creations in the weeks ahead!

Duncan Sanders

Teacher



SPORT



This term, our sports program took a bold leap onto the netball court. For many of our students, this was their very first time picking up the ball, but the courage shown during training was nothing short of inspiring. The highlight was undoubtedly our trip to the **No Limits Netball Funday**, where the focus was on participation, skill-building, and (most importantly) having a blast.

Perhaps the biggest win of the term was seeing students who typically avoid physical education dive into the action. What started as a new challenge quickly turned into a weekly highlight, with many students now genuinely looking forward to their time out in the open.

Here's what the players had to say:

Ambher: "We went to a netball carnival I learnt new skills."

Seth: "Sport was 'interesting', we did netball."

Lucas: "This term we went to Netball, I learned how to play, and I enjoy it."

Dylan: "I went to netball, it was fun there."

When we weren't sprinting across the court, we took a "change of pace" session to focus on mindfulness and fine motor skills. The classroom transformed into a quiet studio as we all sat down to make origami cranes, proving that our team is just as talented at intricate folding as they are at fast-paced passing!

Next term, we turn to AFL/Rugby!

David Bennett

Teacher



WELLBEING



In Wellbeing this term, we have been learning about emotions. The school is in the process of implementing the RULER approach to social and emotional learning. This is an evidence-based strategy developed at the YALE Centre for Emotional Intelligence. Our Year 12s have already demonstrated some brilliant progress over the course of last year. Students are showing they are developing an understanding of how emotions can be understood in terms of their level of energy and pleasantness. Their emotional vocabularies are growing, with students able to name 'curious' and 'proud' as pleasant ways to feel.

Over the course of the term, we have explored words that fit into each of the emotion categories.

Blue	low energy and unpleasant	sad, lonely, bored, left out, tired, disappointed
Green	low energy and pleasant	calm, safe, comfortable, relaxed, content
Red	high energy and unpleasant	angry, frustrated, annoyed, scared, jealous
Yellow	high energy and pleasant	excited, happy, confident, proud, curious

Each week, after learning about emotions, we have been working on choosing activities to participate in that support feeling pleasant. Some examples of activities on offer are listening to music, playing pickleball or basketball, art-based activities like drawing or painting and building Lego constructions. Some students have also chosen activities which support intellectual well-being, such as reading, coding, writing and problem-solving tasks.

It has been fantastic to see the Year 12s return and to welcome our new Year 11s. I have enjoyed learning some of the activities that support them to feel pleasant and look forward to exploring further options next term.

Kate Gelle

Teacher

RETAIL

Retail 2026 has kicked off with fantastic energy and engagement from our students. This term, learners jumped straight into exploring safety in the workplace, gaining practical knowledge and putting their skills into action.

Bunnings Program – Building for the Community

Students participated in a three-week workplace learning program at Bunnings, where they applied classroom knowledge to real-world tasks. During this program, they worked hands-on to build a rabbit hutch and storage cube that was donated to the local community—an excellent opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, and tool-handling skills.

Bark Bites for a Cause

In addition to their onsite learning, students have been busy in the kitchen creating Bark Bites—tasty homemade treats for staff pets. These were a big hit with our school dogs and cats, and sales helped raise \$153 for K9 Rescue. A wonderful effort for a great cause!

End-of-Term Retail Sales

To wrap up the term, students demonstrated their growing retail and hospitality abilities with a selection of freshly made muffins and pancakes.

All proceeds from these sales were donated to WA Mum's Cottage in Mandurah, supporting families and community wellbeing.

Meagan Green *Trainer*



SUSTAINABILITY

In our Sustainability classes, students have been exploring the important topic of sustainability and how they can make a positive impact at school and at home. Through engaging activities, they are learning practical ways to live more sustainably in their everyday lives.

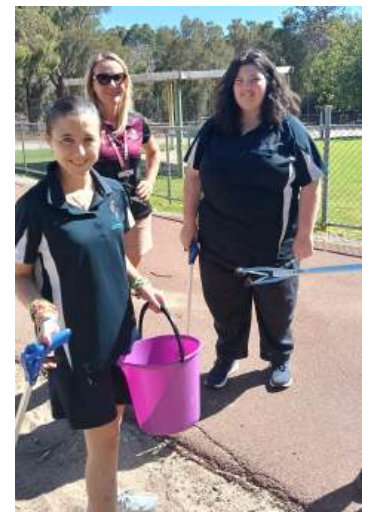
Students have taken part in collecting 10c bottles and cans, with all proceeds being donated to a worthy charity. This initiative has helped them understand the value of recycling and community contribution.

They have also been learning about sustainable practices such as the use of solar power, reducing waste, and the importance of recycling. In addition, students have studied vital animals within our ecosystem, particularly bugs, and the important roles they play in maintaining environmental balance.

Discussions have also explored the impact of natural disasters on ecosystems and communities. We are proud of the students' growing awareness and commitment to creating a more sustainable future.

Duncan Sanders

Teacher



PERMACULTURE

This term, students took part in our very first Permaculture course, diving into sustainable gardening and hands-on learning. As Ambher explained, *“it’s basically sustainability, but all about growing plants without chemicals and using what you have.”*

Students explored the three core principles of permaculture: **Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share**. Students planted seeds in recycled egg cartons, which Jack explained, how quickly they sprouted into Rocket, Marigolds, Cabbage, Radishes and Garlic Chives. Composting became a favourite activity too—Troy described how they built compost jars using layers of soil, veggie scraps, shredded paper, leaves and grass, now busy breaking down in the Permaculture tunnel.

Learning about what plants need to grow was a highlight for Dylan, especially when paired with visits to the community garden. Brayden and Seth also enjoyed working there—planting seeds, raking leaves for compost, washing pots, and creating new succulent cuttings.

It’s been a busy and rewarding term, and students are excited for the new projects planned for Term Two.

**Jane Thomas, Julie Woodman
& Penny Madigan**
Permaculture Team



CONSTRUCTION

Students have had a good start to Construction with an emphasis on Teamwork and an introduction to Workplace Health and Safety requirements. Students have started to use basic materials and hand skills whilst practising their Brick Laying and Rendering skills in preparation for their basic construction project later in the course. They have been learning how to safely set up and use the Cement Mixer to mix mortar and to use hand tools such as a Brickies Trowel and Hawk and Trowel for Rendering.

Mark Barritt
Trainer



BEAUTY



Misty

Favourite treatment to do: Learning to wash hair and do facials

Favourite treatment to have done: Facial
"Beauty is fun and cool and we get to learn lots of different things. It's just awesome!"

Deegan

Favourite treatment to do: Eyelash tinting, eyebrow tinting and waxing.

Favourite treatment to have done: Having my hair done.

"I think this class is really fun and relaxing"

Shayla

Favourite treatment to do: Washing and styling hair.

Favourite treatment to have done: Nails.
"It's lots of fun!"



Isla

Favourite treatment to do: Facials

Favourite treatment to have done: Facials
"I just really like beauty class."

Lily

Favourite treatment to do: Nails manicures and pedicures.

Favourite treatment to have done: Having my hair done.

"It's fun getting to experience all the different treatments!"

Chanel

Favourite treatment to do: Everything to do with hair.

Favourite treatment to have done: Having my hair done.

"Beauty is challenging, exciting and fun!"

REFERENCES

Contact Us



www.facebook.com/JTCEESC



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What's On in Mandurah?



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