

## Principal's Update – 29 November 2024

Dear all

I hope you are well and not too exhausted with all the extra demands that this time of the year brings.

One of the highlights of the past week at school was the Sports Award Ceremony. For those of you who attended I am sure you would agree with me it was a very special ceremony. We had the same guest speaker as for 2023 ... Jay Stevens. Jay is a paraplegic after a helicopter crash and has retaught himself to walk. Despite requiring crutches and having no feeling in one leg, ... at last year's assembly Jay told us he was going to climb to the base camp of Mount Everest.

We invited him back to hear how he went. His presentation was amazing with videos showing how he climbed despite his disability, over rocks as well as climbing across suspension bridges with crutches and eventually after more than 13 days reaching base camp. His presentation I am sure, will stay with those present for many years to come.

Also at the ceremony two Year 12 basketball players were presented with the inaugural 'Jordan Nzigamasabo' trophy. Jordan is a much loved member of the 'Class of 2024' who passed away earlier this year. It was wonderful to have Jordan's parents present at the ceremony to present the trophy.

On Monday night the Performing Arts staff supported our talented students in the summer concert. What a fabulous night it was. The music, dance, drama and film were outstanding and it was lovely to see that students from Year 7 to Year 12 all had the opportunity to perform. There were so many stunning performances that we will be inviting a few to perform again at the upcoming Year 7, 2025, Orientation Day and the presentation nights.

So the upcoming week is proving on paper to be another very busy one. All Year 11/12 will be sitting their first assessment week with StuVac. While it is a little confronting this first assessment is worth less (in terms of overall % weighting) than subsequent assessments and so hopefully it will ease students into what is required in terms of preparation for a formal assessment block.

On Tuesday we will be welcoming all Year 6 (who will be Year 7, 2025). This is always a fun morning and I am very grateful to Year 10 who will be taking the Year 6 students on a tour of our school.

Then on Wednesday, Year 10 are heading off to Broken Bay for the mandatory Life Ready program. While there will be a number of students completing the program at school most will complete the program at camp.

Finally Year 9 and 10 will receive their reports this afternoon. This represents a culmination of their efforts over the past two terms, and I am sure there will be some very proud students and families.

Best wishes

Susan