Principal’s Report

Dear Families,

We were very lucky to have such great weather on Wednesday night for our Christmas Concert. I listened to your feedback from last year’s event where we had too much sun in the audience’s faces. We rectified that by moving it all down to the oval, which seemed to largely fix this. In doing so, we also provided ourselves a beautiful backdrop of large gum trees and a raised stage for the children. What a great move! The students did us proud and entertained us in so many ways. Thank you for all of your support too— it was really a joy to put this event together when we have so many happy families at the end of the evening. Happy enough to help with transporting the chairs back to the hall too!

Speaking of feedback, we are really enjoying the comments regarding the ‘Advent Family Prayer Boxes’. Lots of parents are indicating that this is a treasured moment to have the box home for an evening. Here is a sample of one of the pieces of feedback we have received recently:

We had it last night and the kids were beyond excited to have a turn. We set it up at our dinner table and discussed the importance of having a candle burning, Advent and the birth of Jesus. We told everyone that we love them and why we love them. The younger siblings were keen to have a turn as well. We all loved hearing how much everyone loved us and why, even when two kids told me they love me for my cooking! This was great and a great way for our family to spend time together and talk about something different. THANK YOU.

I think this says it all, and a very fitting way to finish off our last newsletter for the year. Don’t forget to check out the Christmas schedule at the St James church. God bless, enjoy your family Christmas experience with each other and have a safe, relaxing holiday.

Andy McDermott
St James Prayer

Lord our Guiding Light,
Let us follow in the footsteps of St James with shell in hand
May the Spirit guide us to show love, peace and forgiveness
Come follow me
Help us to strive to do our best in all the learning we do
We pray for wisdom with God's creation to care for all living things
Come follow me
Help us to be a friend, like St James was to Jesus
Bless our families, friends and community
Guide our community to nurture and grow in faith
Come follow me
Amen

Principal's Report Continued

December Reports

The December portion of the government mandated report will be coming out Wednesday next week. Please remember that this pairs up with our more informative portion of the report that has been coming to you via the Seesaw digital learning portfolio. Read them in conjunction with one another to paint the fuller picture of your child’s growth as a learner. Reading the mandated ‘progression dots’ in isolation is not sufficient to give you an idea of their growth and achievements.

Thankyou from Miss Daniel

To all St James families,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for playing such an important role in my time here. I am so grateful for every opportunity I have been given and everyone I have met along the way. You have all shown me so much support, encouragement and positivity that has had a huge impact on me as a person and as a teacher. What a truly special place the St James community is, that makes saying goodbye so hard but I count myself very lucky to have experienced and been a part of this amazing school. Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2017.
Kate Daniel

End of Year

Children will finish for the year on Friday 16th December at 3.30pm

Graduation Mass

Wednesday 14th December at 6pm
The Graduation Mass is a rite of passage for our year 6’s - a very special occasion for them and their parents but it also is a whole school celebration.
We would like to invite ALL families to support this year’s graduating students by attending Mass.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Olivia, Christopher, Max (Year One) and Sadie Grogan on the birth of their new little son and brother, Sam.

Our Parish Masses

Koo Wee Rup  Sunday 9:30 am
Iona           Sunday 11:00 am
Nar Nar Goon  Saturday 6:00 pm
Maryknoll     2nd Sunday of the Month @ 8:00am

St James Prayer

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Amen

School Board

Board members for 2017 are:

Executive Officials:
Andrew McDermott and Fr. Peter Kooloos
Chairperson: Ryan Lawlor

Board Members:
Mary Claire Patterson  Gehan Dedigama
Justine Langley       Phil Martin
Andrew Pomeroy        Tory Parker (Secretary)
Eve Koch

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Kate Daniel

Christmas Eve Mass @ St James

Carols @ 5:30pm, Mass @ 6:00pm

Hope to see Families at the many Christmas Eve Masses available in the area. The students of St James have been invited to attend St James 6pm mass and to dress as shepherds or angels on the evening. We also have some children participating in the Nativity re-enactment and have singers coming along too. Many thanks for your participation.

Christmas Mass times are attached to this newsletter.

To the families who are kindly donating items (lollies, Christmas cakes or money) for the Christmas Eve Mass could you please ensure they are delivered to the office by Friday 16th December.
Parents and Friends News

On behalf of the Parents and Friends committee I would like to extend my thanks to our wonderful St James families, staff and our wider community for all the support given this year with fundraising. It has been another busy year and thanks to your continued support and generosity we were able to raise significant funds towards a much needed technology upgrade for the Junior Learning Hub. All fundraising throughout the year contributes greatly and benefits all of our children's education, so it is enormously valuable and important to have your support! Whether its attending the Market Night, helping out on a roster, purchasing raffle tickets, sending donations, making food, bingo duty, helping out & purchasing Monday lunches or attending social events – every little bit helps and for this we are extremely grateful.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank our hardworking committee and all of the wonderful school staff for all the support and dedication given throughout the year. We held our AGM last week and positions for P&F committee for 2017 are as follows:

- President – Steph Katta
- Vice-President – Kristen Hilder
- Treasurer – Kathleen Ward
- Secretary – Meg Watts
- Fundraising Coordinator – Meagan Rogers
- School Board Representative – Justine Langley
- Monday Lunches – Leanne Daly
- Bingo Coordinator – Justine Langley

We look forward to another successful and fun year in 2017! As always, we would love to see any new (or old!) faces come along to our P&F meetings. Our first meeting will be held on Friday 10th February 2017 in the hall foyer.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and safe & happy holidays :)

Meg Watts

First Day of School Lunch 2017

St James parents & Friends Group has for a number of years organised a 'First day of School Lunch' for parents. It is a good way to meet new friends or to catch up with old friends after the school holidays. Crying or cheering over lunch is also personally very healthy, especially when done in good company.

The ‘First Day of School Lunch’ for 2017 will be held on Thursday 2nd February at the Cardinia Club in Racecourse Rd at 12.30pm. There is a children's playroom at this venue for pre-schoolers.

To help us with our booking, if you would like to attend please advice the office or email Michelle mcollins@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

Thank you

2017 Sacramental Program – Preliminary Notice

The parish sacramental team invites parents of children who are to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist or Reconciliation in 2017 to note in their diaries, the Information and Enrolment Evenings early in the new school year.

This year enrolments for the three sacraments will be taken at these meetings.

- Columba, Bunyip - Tuesday 7th February @ 7:00pm
- St John's Koo Wee Rup – Thursday 9th February @ 7:00pm

The commitment Mass for Reconciliation is on the Saturday 18th February 2016, 6:00pm at St James.

Sacramental News

We have good news regarding the sacramental program for next year. Maree Wright and Marl Scanlon have agreed to take the reins of the sacramental program with the farewell of Sister Cathy. We are very lucky to have some generous people step in to help with this important role. Maree will be the St James/Iona Parish contact person and Marl will be the St John's KWR contact.

Farewell to Class of 2016

All parents are invited to say good bye to the grade 6 students on the last day of term. The WHOLE SCHOOL will attend assembly at 3:00pm followed by a GUARD OF HONOUR to farewell the students.

The guard of honour will take place on the senior side of school at 3.20pm.

Parents are all welcome to come along to see them off.

2017 Beginning of Year Assessment

Beginning of year assessment will be held next term on Tuesday 31st January and Wednesday 1st February 2017. Online booking information accompanies this newsletter. This system gives flexibility and choice of timeslots for assessments. Parents will be able to access the internet at school to book times if they have no home internet access.

School resumes for all children on Thursday 2nd February.
Birthdays
Kiana Angus turns 11 on 12th December
Stella Rongoni turns 9 on 12th December
Lola Daly turns 7 on 15th December
Stuart Trotter turns 15th December
Cooper Knap turns 11 on 19th December

Assembly Awards
Monday 28th November
Year One:
Clae Parker – leading his community and being a good role model
Oscar Henwood – what a fantastic effort with home reading to keep enjoying stories and non-fiction

Year Two/Three:
Tijana Bourne – showing great improvement in all areas of learning
Jake Kelly – for his independent work on Mathletics tasks

Year Four/Five/Six:
Kiana Angus – great participation in group activities
Lilly Downie – great participation in group activities

Mathlete of the Week: Jack Dell’Oro Year 2

Monday 5th December
Foundation:
Tiahli Dedigama – well done on writing a very thoughtful and detailed letter to your buddy
Tristan Crema – excellent reading progress
Blake Hermon – excellent independent writing

Year One:
Adara Murtagh – using fantastic strategies during testing
Dino Maio – working brilliantly at maths tasks

Year Two/Three:
Tayla Bourke – continual improvement in reading and comprehension
Jack Lawlor – showing constant improvement in his handwriting

Year Four/Five/Six:
Emily Evans – great writing
Lily Moloney – great writing

Mathlete of the Week: Shakira Bourne Year 6

Garden News
As many people may be aware, we have been doing a fair bit of work down in the vegie patch and recently, we harvested some cabbage, baby spinach and chives which we made into a coleslaw. More than have the school demolished these coleslaw sandwiches and even came back for seconds (or thirds if your name is Mr Vermeer).

We currently have some cherry tomatoes, beetroot, climbing beans, butter beans, iceberg lettuce, cucumber, zucchinis, snow peas, strawberries, radishes and potatoes growing in our patch.

I will be coming down at times over the break to maintain what I can, however this will not always be possible. For those that live locally, please feel free to drop in and water / weed the patch and harvest what you can over the holiday break. It would be great to see some of it used rather than go to waste. If we are lucky enough, we might even be able to start the year with some delicious fresh vegetables.

Junior Learning Hub News
What a great term we have had at St James! When reflecting on the year that has been, the children have realised how much they have done at school and how much they have learnt this year.

From the music, art, Spanish, sport and tennis lessons that they love; to the events such as Bricks 4 Kidz, Teddy Bears Picnic, 100th day of school, St James Feast Day; the amazing reading, writing and maths learning in the classroom; and of course the wonderful friendships that have been formed. Looking back on the year makes us so proud of each and every one of the children and how far they have come. They have worked extremely hard all year and have a lot of achievements to take with them to their next year level.

The reverence and community spirit at Mass today is also a huge credit to the children and shows a true development of their faith.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your involvement in the children’s schooling this year. Support such as the daily reading and attendance at Masses and events is invaluable for their learning and is greatly appreciated.

Have a safe and happy holiday break and may God bless you all
Kate and Bernie
Grade Two/Three News

Along with everyone else, I'm sitting here wondering where this year has gone. We have managed to cover a lot in the year and the students of Team 2/3 should be incredibly proud of their personal achievements and improvements in their learning. Below I have included some reflections on some of the most memorable learning experiences of a handful of students.

I can't believe how much my reading has improved. At the start of the year I didn't know what the words were that I was reading. Now I don't get stuck, I can sound out and I am reading better. My writing has shrunk to fit on the lines and they sit on the lines! Kingston

- I have done really well with my Maths. I am getting really good at rapid response Maths questions. Rory
- My spelling has improved quite a bit. I am spelling harder, challenging words. Olivia
- I discovered that if you mix some things from the vegie patch in together, it tastes really good. We got to try coleslaw made of cabbage, spinach and chives from the garden. William
- I loved writing stories. My favourite was our story starter when we dug in the ground and found...! I even went home and wrote some of my own stories
- The thing that sticks in my mind from this year is reading because we do it everyday. Tarrant
- We loved Maths, especially the rapid response work. We have had the best battles together to see who is the fastest of the fast lane in multiplication! Shae and Jack L
- The thing that stands out for me the most this year is my friends. I was new to this school and on the first day I had a heap of new friends. I still have those friends today. Tayla B

Grade Four/Five/Six News

This years Christmas play was Christmas carols. All the classes had put a lot of hard work into it. We all did a traditional song and a funky song.

TRADITIONAL SONGS

- prep= Rudolph
- Year one= He made away in a manger
- Year 2/3= Silent night
- Year 4/5/6= Away in a manger

FUNKY SONGS

- Prep= Little drummer boy
- Year one= Joy to the world
- Year 2/3= Rocking around the Christmas tree
- Year 4/5/6= Frosty the snowman and Sandy the sand man

And we did 3 songs as a whole school witch where ....
- Mi Burrito (In Spanish)
- Oh come Emmanuel

And finish it all up we did the St James song

It was all done down at the St James oval

Up in the hall there was an amazing art exhibition where the parents got to see the children's art work.

by Lilly D and Georgia R