Dear Families,

As we waved goodbye to the Year 4, 5 and 6’s on Wednesday morning, we were waving goodbye to nearly half of our school including our student leaders. It’s a very different playground and school dynamic with the older ones gone. Tradition has been that the Year 3s step up as school leaders for the three days of camp. The Teddy Bear’s Picnic is a highlight for those remaining here at school but oddly enough, for those students in Year 3, the deputation of leadership for this week is by far the most memorable for them.

Children of all ages love the esteem of being given responsibility. Often if we couch a job or chore with the responsibility attached, the child or adolescent is more than willing to take it on – and do so with pride.

The learning for the campers over these past few days is huge. Sure, it is an extremely fun experience to go on an adventure camp but the experience of being away from family for three days is quite a leap in their independence. There is a new level of organisation skills needed, a heightened understanding of team work and more calls on their initiative. You could say that the children come back very different human beings! It may not manifest itself straight away, just in case you were expecting little Johnny to get back home and tidy up their bedroom immediately after getting home!

Communication with school

It’s a great time of year to remind everyone that timely communication with your class teacher about social and behavioural issues is paramount to your child’s wellbeing. Facebook or other forms of social media are not the place for venting or looking for consolation. The best way to address an issue is to talk to your teacher first. Remember that the ‘event’ is only ever told partially, and from a certain point of view. Going to Facebook first is fraught with danger and has the potential to make the person who vented prematurely look silly. We are teaching the students a lot about mindfulness here at St James and without it being modelled by the adults in their life, this can undo some of the valuable learning. Breathe first, tell yourself, “I’ve only heard my child’s version so far”, and resolve to talk to the teacher the next available moment. They are the best allies in your child’s school life, as long as you lean on them in the most crucial moments. It’s also important to be open to hear a different take on the ‘event’ once you get the chance to catch up with your teacher.

Andy McDermott

Dates to Remember:

- 18.02.17 Reconciliation Commitment Mass 6:00pm @ St James
- 20.02.17 District Swimming
- 21.02.17 Billy Tea Bush Dance Family Night
- 28.02.17 School Photography Day
- Shrove Tuesday 01.03.17
- Ash Wednesday
- 07.03.17 – 13.03.17 Book Fair
- 08.03.17 St Francis Xavier Information Evening
- 10.03.17 Grandparents Day
- 17.03.17 P & F Meeting

Dates are subject to change, for updates please check our school Website or App.

Coming Home Today

- School Photo Envelopes
- Grandparents Day Notice
- Catholic Life
Principal’s Report Continued

Grandparents Day

This is a big day in the St James calendar – don’t miss the separate notice that is attached regarding this special day. This year after the morning tea, we plan to do a combination of the traditional sports and the classroom visit. Last year we received a lot of positive feedback regarding the open classrooms, so we have kept this item in the agenda. We have also included a shared morning tea, so the children have more opportunity to interact with their special visitors.

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday - 28th February

Pancakes will be served at school for our school students Tuesday afternoon as we have school photos in the morning. Students will have the opportunity to have butter, sugar and lemon juice or jam on their pancakes. This is a lovely tradition of our church and school.

Ash Wednesday Mass – 1st March @ 11.30am

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Liturgical Season for Lent in our Church. This is a time where we encourage our community for almsgiving (giving to those less fortunate) fasting (giving up something you might do daily) and increasing our prayer. This is a special season to prepare for Easter.

Monday Lunches

Monday 20th February

BLT’S with Mayo $5.00

Monday 27th February

Ham, cream cheese, lettuce & mayo wrap $5.00

All orders come with a choice of drink (juice box) or zooper dooper, please mark clearly on bag, which one is preferred.

Zooper Dooper only $1.00

Please mark clearly on bag if sauce is required, thank you.

Leanne Daly - Lunch Coordinator

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

School Board

Board members for 2017 are:

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

Board Members:
Mary Claire Patterson
Justine Langley
Andrew Pomeroy
Eve Koch

School Photos

St James school photos are scheduled for the Tuesday 28th February 2017.

Please ensure your children are in full summer school uniform. This includes the correct socks and school shoes. Your children’s uniform need to be clean and shoes, polished. Children should have a St James school jumper at school in case of cold weather.

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
School Photographs for 2017

School Photographs will be by our School Photographers, Spargo Photography on Tuesday, 28 February 2017.

To ensure that your photos are returned as quickly as possible, please follow these quick and easy guidelines.

- Please write clearly on your child's envelope (Block letters preferred)
- If possible please don't use small change as this can break or fall out of your envelope, if this is not possible, please tape up the sides or put the money in a freezer bag then inside your envelope.
- For online orders, complete an envelope and record the Order Number in the "online Order#" section on the envelope.
- All children must have their own envelope with them when being photographed.
- Do not use one envelope for multiple children.
- Children without an envelope when having their individual photos taken will not have an order placed against their name.
- For Family/Siblings Portraits please see your school office for an information flyer and red family envelope.
- Do not place a family envelope inside another envelope or an individual envelope.
- We will only photograph family/siblings with a completed family envelope.

ONLINE PRE-ORDER

We now provide you with the flexibility of pre-paying your child's photos online. Simply follow the links below to place your order. Once completed, print out your confirmation invoice and include in your child’s envelope.

To order click on the following links:
- Individual Photograph Packs
- Family Photograph Orders

If you have any inquiries, please contact us on (03) 5942 5234

Envelopes have been sent home today, campers will get theirs on Monday.

District Swimming Sports

Monday 20th February

Reminder to selected students attending District Swimming we will be leaving school at 9:00am and return approx. 2:30pm.

You will need to wear sports uniform with bathers underneath, bring a snack, lunch and drinks. Soft drink is not permitted. Hat, sunscreen and towels will also be required.

Assembly Awards

Monday 6th February

Foundation:
Harry Kennedy – amazing duck drawing for our class pond
Xanthe Parker – beautiful work in the classroom

Year One:
Blake Hermon – fantastic work to make ‘friends of 10’ during maths
Phoenix Giordano-Day – working hard for the first few days of school

Year Two:
Grace Sefton – showing how to be a good friend to classmates
Hamish Collett – listening and showing Miss Hodgens you are ready to learn

Year Three/Four:
Jake Kelly – showing improved effort and presentation with his writing
Lily Hermon – demonstrating fantastic reading comprehension

2017 Sacramental Program

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Commitment Mass
Saturday 18th February, 6:00pm at St James
Sunday 19th February, 9:30am at St John’s
Sunday 19th February, 11:00am At St Joseph’s

Parent/child workshop (must attend one)
Tuesday 7th March, 7:00pm at St James hall
Thursday 9th March, 7:00pm at St John’s hall

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday 28th March, 7:00pm at St Joseph’s
Wednesday 29th March, 7:00pm at St John’s
Junior Learning Hub News

Well what a start to 2017 it has been in our Junior Learning Hub. We have had a wonderful transition for the Year 1’s from being Foundation in 2016 to big Year 1’s and then our new Foundation students look like they have been here for a long time, not just 2 weeks. The way the students have learned behaviours for Read to Self and Read to Someone has been amazing and the Foundation and Year 1 have learned to read a book using only pictures to help them make up the story using ‘Who’ and ‘What’. The students should be congratulated on the way they have come to school ready to work hard and work with each other.

We celebrated with our Teddy Bear Picnic yesterday and had a great day. The students wore their pj’s and brought their teddy bear snacks to share. The array of food was outstanding with teddy bear cars made from mini mars bars, fruit sticks, donuts, cakes galore and some popcorn too. We all had a fun time with the activities from art, biscuit decorating and drama. A hot chip lunch shared on a picnic rug was a joy to see as the whole school sat under the Big Red Roof. The day was a huge success so we thank families for your help in supporting this event.

We look forward to loads of learning in the Junior Learning Hub this term.

Bernie Hance and Julie Kennedy

Year Two News

I’m thrilled to be at St James for my first year of teaching. These three weeks of Grade 2 have been amazing and I am pleased with how students have settled into a new grade! On the first day of school we made ‘all about me monsters,’ where students got very creative by adding multi-coloured hair, multiple legs and googly eyes. –Miss Hodgens

“This week we had Teddy Bear Picnic. We dressed in our pyjamas and brought our teddy. We had a shared morning tea for snack and hot chips for lunch. We also got to do activities. One was ripping brown paper and gluing it onto a teddy bear template.” –Lucy Watts

“This week we played tennis. We did back hand, it was fun. We also dressed up in our pyjamas and brought food for our teddy bear picnic. We had a shared snack. After snack we did activities.” –Oscar Henwood

Year Three/Four News

I’d like to say a very big welcome back to all of the St James community. We have certainly hit the ground running again this year and have begun a huge and exciting year for the class.

This term we will be supporting a number of our Year 3 students as they prepare for the sacrament of First Reconciliation. We will explore many of the gospels, discussing the importance of forgiveness. I ask that the school community keep our candidates in their prayers as they prepare for this important Sacrament and invite all families to support them as they begin this part of their faith journey at Saturday nights' Reconciliation Commitment Mass.

Our unit focus for this term is based around Australian Geography. Already students are beginning to recall the states, territories and their capital cities and we have enjoyed testing our knowledge using Kahoot quizzes.

We have also been building our skills when working with money. We have had an opportunity to "play shop" with both customers and shopkeepers keeping an eye out for those that might be trying to short change them!

We would also like to say a special welcome to our new classmate Max, who has settled into the team very well. It’s great to have you and your family at St James!

Year Four/Five News

Our school library got a donation of 30 boxes full of novels and picture story books from the Casey Cardinia library. The little kids are writing a big big thank you card and the 3/4s are doing an individual letter thanking the library. The 5/6s are also doing individual letters. The Casey Cardinia library has given us a load of books that we can use.

The books are actually not 20 years old (like in our library) but are 5 or 10 years old now, which is really cool. The picture storybooks are new so the little kids will read some books that they might not read before. Some of the older people have read some of those books about three or four times.

Georgia Reid
**Birthdays**

Azaan Sharma turns 7 on 17th February  
Adam Motta turns 11 on 27th February  
Koby Handley turns 6 on 1st March  
Judah Koch turns 6 on 1st March

**P & F Meeting**

Our next meeting for 2017 will be on Friday 17th March at 2:00pm in the Hall Foyer.  
Parents and Friends are our schools major fundraising source so please if you have some time come along.  
It is also a great way to meet new friends.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Council regularly consult with the community to help inform our decisions in a range of areas. We encourage you to have your say.  
We want our community to be informed of our operations and provide input in a balanced and appropriate way. Seeking community feedback ensures that we know what are the priorities and expectations of the community, so this can influence planning, service delivery and decision making.  
Currently we are seeking feedback on the following strategies:  
- 2017-21 Child, Youth and Family Strategy  
- Liveability Health Plan  
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy (consultation material will become available on Monday 20 February 2017)

Council will also be hosting three Open House sessions in relation to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the draft Strategy.  
- 9 – 11am at the Emerald Library (400A Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald)  
- 12 – 2pm at the Pakenham Library (Cnr John St & Henry St, Pakenham)  
- 3 – 5pm at the Hewitt Eco House Community Room (215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup)  
These drop in sessions are open to anyone and will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions.  
Any questions please phone 1300 787 624.

**St Francis Xavier College**

**2018 Information Evening**

St Francis Xavier College will be holding an Information Evening on Wednesday 8 March 2017 in the College Hall at the Beaconsfield Campus, commencing at 7.30pm. This meeting will include information for those students commencing at the College in Year 7 2018, for both the Berwick and Officer Campuses.  
**Tours of the College** will be conducted at the Berwick and Officer Campuses only prior to the meeting at 5.30pm, 5.45pm, 6.00pm, 6.15pm and 6.30pm. This will allow you time to travel to the Beaconsfield Campus for the meeting commencing at 7.30pm.  
We are very excited about our educational programs at St Francis Xavier College and are pleased that your family wishes to be a part of our future.  
I am sure that your association with St Francis Xavier College will be rewarding for your child and family.  
Please contact the Registrar, Mrs Felicity Woodhouse on 9707 3111 should you have any queries.

**Nar Nar Goon Netball Club**

Nar Nar Goon Netball Club are looking for U13 players for the 2017 Season.  
Training will commence at 5.00pm on the 21st February at Arena Netball Courts, Officer.  
Training will be on Tuesday night’s at Officer until our new Courts at Nar Nar Goon are complete (approx. April) and will then be held at Nar Nar Goon on a Thursday night.  
If you are interested in playing for Nar Nar Goon please come on the 21st February or contact Emma to discuss – 0417548805 or emma.cetel@bigpond.com  
Hope to see you there.

**Year Three Leaders**

![Year Three Leaders](image.png)