

# St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

## Newsletter



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### Principal's Report

#### Dates

**6.02.2020**

Mobile Library visits St James

**7.02.2020**

Opening School Mass 9:30am

**11.02.2020**

Family Fun Night

**17.02.2020**

School Photos

**18.02.2020 – 19.02.2020**

Parent Teacher Interviews

**20.02.2020**

Sacramental Program  
Information Night

**21.02.2020**

District Swimming

Year 2/3 Class Mass 9:30am

**25.02.2020**

Shrove Tuesday

**26.02.2020**

Ash Wednesday

**28.02.2020**

F/1KH & 4/5/6 Class Mass  
9:30am

**29.02.2020**

Reconciliation Commitment  
Mass 6:00pm @ St James

**4.03.2020 – 6.03.2020**

Year 4/5/6 Camp

**26.03.2020**

Term One finishes for  
Students

**27.03.2020**

School Closure

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

Dear Families,

#### **Welcome back**

I wish to welcome all of our families to the start of the 2020 school year. A special mention for all of our new families who are starting at St James for the first time. I hope some of you were able to enjoy the first day lunch today. All of our new Foundations began today with no tears and eager to start. It was a joy to watch.

Today has been a very hot day and it is worth mentioning that we keep the children indoors in extreme weather. All classrooms are air-conditioned, so we can provide a hospitable environment for the students on days like this.

I'll use this opportunity to remind parents to label uniform (jumpers that can be discarded), drink bottles, lunchboxes, hats etc. It can be annoying when you have to replace items and we can get things back to their owners very quickly when they are named with a permanent marker or sticker.

#### **The New Camino Garden**

We are very proud of our new front garden at St James. It is called the 'Camino Garden', as it features the pilgrim's shell prominently in the middle. We often refer to the scallop shell symbol at St James, because of its strong relationship with the famous pilgrimage walk in Spain. What is the significance of the shell? Pilgrims who walk the Camino hang the shell on their backpack to indicate they are undertaking the pilgrimage. Years ago, it was a symbol of Jesus' outstretched hand but also a convenient tool to scoop food and water, along the way. Water is life giving and a very prominent symbol in Christianity. There is also a myth that says that after St James was martyred, a ship containing his body was lost and destroyed in a severe storm. After a long period of time, his body was washed ashore covered in scallop shells.

*Camino* is Spanish for 'The Way'. Tie this together with our school motto, "Come Follow Me", and you can see the link between Jesus' invitation and the direction we are encouraged to head.

Along with the shell in the Camino Garden, you will see twelve old railway stumps (that are actually old Nar Nar Goon railway timbers). These represent the twelve apostles, of which St James was one! To further highlight the link with the Camino, you'll see a swale, a dry river bed, meandering from left to right. This represents the *pilgrimage* aspect; a sense of movement, change and *journey*.

Lastly, could I ask all of our parents to ensure young children are kept off the new garden. We would hate for anyone to get hurt and the various rocks and pebbles have been placed carefully and we don't want them dispersed and lose the artist's intentions.

*Andy McDermott*

31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Issue 1

*"Building Independent and  
Responsible Learners"*

## Principal's report continued

### Family Night - Circus Skills!

Coming up very shortly, is the Family Night that we like to kick off the beginning of the school year with. Mark your calendars for **February 11<sup>th</sup>** 5-6:30pm. The students will be engaged in learning some circus skills during the day at school, ready for some sort of performance later that evening. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and network with other families. This is especially valuable to our new families who may wish to get to know other people in our community.

### Defibrillator

For everyone's information, St James now have a **defibrillator** that is located in the Hall foyer – a central and easy location. We hope we never have an occasion to use it, but it is there in case of emergency.

## Monday Lunches 2020

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:

**Cheese Burger** – beef patty topped with cheese, tomato, lettuce and sauce

OR

**Mac & Cheese** – homemade Mac and Cheese

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February:

**Hot Dog** – hot dog in a roll with sauce

OR

**Zucchini Slice** – homemade zucchini slice with bacon, onion, carrot and eggs topped with tzatziki

### Helper

Dannielle Urquhart

Rebecca Bishop

### Helper

Emma Spoard

Kim Hay

**Please note Monday lunches will only be through CDF Pay, cash payments will no longer be accepted.**

**To set up a your CDF account go to <https://stjamesnng.cdfpay.org.au> select new parent account.**

## Nar Nar Goon Lunch Orders 2020

Lunch orders from the Nar Nar Goon takeaway shop will commence on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** and will be available each Wednesday and Friday for 2020.

Menu for Nar Nar Goon take away is available on our website and a copy has been sent home today.

## 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 2020 are:

### Executive Officials:

Andrew McDermott and Fr Peter Kooloos

**Chairperson:** Gehan Dedigama

### Board Members:

Ryan Lawlor

Eve Koch

Justine Langley

Liz Cunningham

Steph Katta

Tory Parker (Secretary)

## Student Absences

To avoid students having UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES, Parents/Guardians are reminded to inform the School by 9.30am via Email –

**office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au** OR Phone – 5942 5404.

Please provide the student's name, date and reason for absence.

## Late Arrivals / Early Departures

If you are dropping your child off late (after the bell has gone) or collecting him/her early you must visit the office and fill in the Sign In / Sign Out Register. Office staff will take your child through to their class at an appropriate time to ensure minimal disruption is made to the classrooms.

## Whole School Mass for the Opening of the 2020 Year - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9:30am

All families are invited to join students and staff to celebrate the opening of the school year with 9:30am Mass on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. At this Mass, the Foundation children will be presented to our school community, called to the front and given a special prayer place mat to take home.

A Morning Tea will be held in the hall foyer after Mass. This is a great opportunity to catch up, share stories of the holidays and laugh a little. Hope to see you there.

Please bring a plate. Students will not be attending morning tea

## Update your details

We all lead very busy lives and can often forget to update details.

If you have moved, changed home or mobile numbers, or have a new email address please pop into the office or send a quick email to update these.

[office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au)

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

Please see attached flyer for more information. Application forms available at the office.

## Parents and Friends

Committee Members for 2020 are:

President	Meagan Rogers
Secretary	Karen Lawlor
Treasurer	Emma Spoard
Monday Lunches	Donna Reilly
School Board Representative	Justine Langley

Parents and Friends raise much need funds for our students. They would love for new people to get on board. Please watch the newsletters for meeting dates.

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS – DIOCESE OF SALE

30 January 2020

**Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) – Update**

Dear Parents and Guardians

As you may be aware, the situation regarding the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus has continued to evolve.

On 29 January 2020, Victoria's Chief Health Officer recommended a stronger precautionary approach to managing coronavirus for travellers returned from Hubei province.

This recommendation is that parents/guardians/carers of students should ensure that any returning student is isolated at home and should not attend school for 14 days:

- o following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case; or
- o after leaving Hubei Province.

This recommendation also applies to staff, including volunteers and contractors, who have returned or are returning from Hubei province.

If you believe a student or family member may meet one of the above criteria, please contact the Department of Health and Human Services to discuss further actions via phone 1300 651 160. Please also notify the school.

Appropriate arrangements will be made with parents to support student learning during this absence.

The Chief Health Officer's current advice is that staff and students do not need to be isolated at home if they have recently travelled in other parts of China or other countries and are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

Additional information regarding the novel coronavirus can be found by clicking on the following link: [Coronavirus factsheet – Department of Health and Human Services](#)

In circumstances like these, there can understandably be a lot of concern and uncertainty about the safety of your child. Please know that I am available to discuss your concerns with you, and will provide any revised advice to you as soon as it becomes available.

We will keep parents updated should the situation change.