

St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter



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Principal's Report

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Update

We have been continuing to project the message around hygiene, including the hand washing routine, nose blowing, coughing sneezing into the arm, refraining from contact, use of sanitiser in the classroom, not sharing food etc. We have been explicit about this and the students have been very responsive. I'm sure our water bill will go up for the next quarter! The practice we already have of mindful meditation in the classroom is an excellent preventative measure also, as this is shown to reduce anxiety for any situation.

The Catholic Education Office for the Sale Diocese has been putting an extraordinary amount of effort and support into the planning for *potential* school closures. It is a very real possibility and there are many ideas being floated around continued learning, workload and wellbeing. At this stage however, there is no date set for a closure – Government schools and Catholic schools, are open. Independent schools however, have a different strategy. We have set limits around visitors, contractors, assemblies, large gatherings and meetings but no closures to speak of.

In a very brief amount of time, there has been lots of planning and discussion for how St James will respond to the idea of remote learning. Our teachers and students have built a solid repertoire of technology solutions, as well as non-tech solutions, so that our students will be able to continue to learn at home.

A Remote Schooling plan will require a fair degree of flexibility and cooperation between home and school. For your information, I believe the major telecommunication providers have plans for families to 'activate' more robust Internet/Data plans so that remote learning is made more possible for those that have smaller data plans. Families will need to seek more information around this from their own telecommunications provider.

St James teachers are dedicated to the continued learning of our students and will be attending to the learning needs throughout whatever 'remote' period of time that is deemed necessary. We will need to consider modes of communication and the variability in student needs. This is quite a task, as you could imagine. At this point in human history, technology cannot replace teachers. We need to consider that the learning is not going to be optimal during the potential 'Remote' period, but we will be doing the next best thing.

You've all heard 'We're all in this together', and this certainly applies during this time. Stay positive, speak positively and calmly with the children, heed the social distancing messages and don't panic-buy all the toilet paper and mince meat.

Andy McDermott

20th March 2020

Issue 5

"Building Independent and Responsible Learners"

Dates

25.3.2020

Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00pm @ St James

26.03.2020

Term One finishes for
Students

27.03.2020

School Closure

14.04.2020

Term Two Commences

25.04.2020

Anzac Day

5.05.2020

Advisory Committee Meeting

12.05.2020 – 14.05.2020

Naplan Testing - Cancelled

25.05.2020 – 29.05.2020

Book Fair

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

Principal's Report Continued

Reconciliation & Sacramental Update

Father Peter would like to let us know that the Reconciliation ceremony **will go ahead** on Wednesday night (25th March) at 7pm at St James. For it to go ahead, we ask that families limit the number of people attending by only bringing immediate family members (Mum, Dad and siblings). We are also going to ask that when we are seated, that we provide a row to buffer between families. I'm sure everyone can understand why we need to take these measures, in the interest of following health expert advice.

As for the other Sacraments to be celebrated this year (First Communion and Confirmation), these are "to be advised". This includes workshops and ceremonies.

Mobile Library

As we are not sure on when the mobile library can return to St James. Mail from the mobile library will be in next **Thursday, 26th March** to collect any borrowed books. Could all students please ensure they have their books in on this day.

Please note all Casey Cardinia Libraries will be closed from (and inclusive of) Thursday 19th March 2020 until further notice.

We are working on ways that we can help people can still access our services, please remember:

- We DON'T charge overdue fines and we offer automatic renewals, hang onto your books you will not be penalised – promise!
- HOLDS – We are working on a way to get holds to you. While we do this we will extend the pickup dates for you
- AUTOMATIC RENEWALS – all materials will be automatically renewed for four weeks (even two-week loan items)
- "After hours" chutes are open 24/7 so you can drop your items whenever it suits you
- The [Digital Library](#) is open 24/7, you can download books, stream music and much more
- [Casey Cardinia Libraries App](#) is open 24/7 and all accessible at your fingertips, download it now

Monday Lunches 2020

Monday 16th March: **Helper**

Lunches have been cancelled for this day

Monday 20th April:

Hotdog with sauce – hotdog in a roll with sauce
Alanna Pomeroy

Or
Pasta Bake – homemade bolognese tossed with penne pasta and topped with béchamel and cheese
Siobhain Sharma

Orders need to be submitted to CDF Pay by 8:55am on Monday or they will not be accepted

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

Advisory Committee

Committee members for 2020 are:

Executive Officials:

Andrew McDermott and Fr Peter Kooloos

Chairperson: Gehan Dedigama

Board Members:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Ryan Lawlor | Tory Parker (Secretary) |
| Justine Langley | Liz Cunningham |
| Steph Katta | |

Next Advisory Committee Meeting, 5th April 2020

Parents and Friends

Committee Members for 2020 are:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Meagan Rogers |
| Secretary | Karen Lawlor |
| Treasurer | Emma Spoard |
| Monday Lunches | Donna Reilly |
| Advisory Committee Representative | Justine Langley |

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.

Assembly Awards

Monday 16th March

Foundation/One KH

Harper – great job giving writing a red hot go!

Harvey – great job giving writing a red hot go!

Darcy – working really hard on his writing and getting his work completed on time

Foundation/One EB

Scarlett – displaying excellent listening skills and asking relevant questions

Jaxon – working really hard to improve his recount writing

Year Two/Three GB

Maddy – consistent hard work across all areas of her learning

Xanthe – persistence with her Mathematics task on partitioning numbers

Year Two/Three JK

Jackson – displaying responsible working behaviours

Indi-Rose – terrific efforts in planning and drafting her narrative story

Peyton – amazing work with her spelling, showing huge improvements between pre and post tests

2020 Sacrament Program

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 25th March 7:00pm @ St James

Please Note: As addressed in our Principal report this Sacrament will go ahead with the following restrictions in place, we ask that families limit the number of people attending by only bringing immediate family members (Mum, Dad and siblings). We are also going to ask that when we are seated, that we provide a row to buffer between families. I'm sure everyone can understand why we need to take these measures, in the interest of following health expert advice.

The below dates are now "to be advised".

Confirmation:

Commitment Mass – Saturday 18th April 6:00pm @ St James

Sacrament Mass – Thursday 14th May 7:00pm @ St Johns

Eucharist:

Commitment Mass – Saturday 18th July 6:00pm @ St James

Sacrament of Eucharist – Sunday 8th August 6:00pm @ St James.

Last Day of Term One

Last day for students is **Thursday 26th March 2020**.

Students finish at 3.30pm.

Foundation/One News

Foundation and Grade 1 students have been working really hard over the last couple of weeks. We have had the doors open between our two classrooms which has allowed collaborative teaching and learning to happen across most subject areas. Students have adapted extremely well and this environment has provided different opportunities for students to take responsibility for their learning.

- I have enjoyed skip counting- Scarlett.
- I liked the word searches we did for morning work- Luca.
- I enjoyed our weekend recount writing and adding detail- Bailee.
- I liked learning about our sounds and letters- Finn.
- I had fun doing skip counting in Maths- Rydah.
- I liked the skip counting and sentence activities- Harvey.
- Skip counting was my favourite thing to do- Jack.
- I enjoyed skip counting- Holly.
- I liked writing our compound sentences- Felicity.
- I had fun using counters and writing out skip counting- Amelia

Two/Three GB News

- In writing we have been learning about Narrative writing. You need to include an orientation, complication and a resolution. - Callum
- In Maths, 2/3GB have been working on 3D shapes including the vertices, edges and faces. - Amayah
- In religion, we have started working on the topic of Lent. We did some drawings and sentences to show what we already know about Lent. - Milla
- In sport we have been sprinting and Mr Rodgers has been timing us. - Eddie
- In integrated we have been learning about different types of vegetation. These include the desert, woodlands, rainforests and grasslands. - Hugo.
- In maths we have been introduced to some angles. Their names are acute, right angle and obtuse angles. We also worked with lines that make angles. Parallel lines stay straight but perpendicular lines cross. The perpendicular lines create right angles where they join. - Indigo
- In reading we have been learning about fact and opinion. A fact can be proven, an opinion is something you think, feel or believe. - Chloe L

Two/Three JK News

Ben - We have been learning using Kahoots and Mathletics in class. We have been learning about angles and lines. Parallel, perpendicular and intersecting lines and obtuse, right and acute angles.

Joel - We've been learning about the climates in Australia. Also the states and territories. We made a model of Australia and painted it to match the climates. We were learning about Symmetry. Symmetry is the same on both sides and we cut our faces in half and drew them.

Josh - We have been doing narrative writing. We have been using a planner in our books. Figuring out all the characters, the setting is where you get places to get your characters to go to.

Four/Five/Six News

Forest Lodge

BOOM, CRASH, BANG! There goes the luggage on the bus! "Everyone hop on the bus", yells Mr. Vermeer and on the road we go to Forest Lodge Farm! Yay we're finally here. We put our backpacks inside, shoes on the rack. As we go inside we see a cow dancing! Only kidding, it's just a worker! We go have lunch and settle in our rooms. LET THE ACTIVITIES BEGIN!

We have finally started our activities. They were: Giant Swing, Archery, Flying Fox and Canoeing. The second and third day we had Bush Cooking, Hut building, Low Ropes Course and Frisbee Golf! It was very funny when Mrs. Powderham got splashed on the canoes. It was hilarious, so funny. Mrs. Kennedy also made us laugh by her screaming on the Giant Swing. We had to block our ears, the neighbours could probably hear it from a mile away.

It's time to go. I didn't want to go but we had to. The roads were twisted and turney and made us feel sick. I just want to get this done and over with when we get back. We were so relieved. "Woo hoo yay" we yelled, we are back. That was the best camp ever!

By Brianna, Grace and Jade

"Everyone get onto the bus!" Mr Vermeer yelled. You could barely hear him over the rumbling of the engine.

We headed onto the bus, sat down, buckled in and got going. The trip was pretty boring because everyone was excited for camp. When we finally arrived we had to do some unpacking. After unpacking, we headed off to pop some balloons in archery. In archery, we had to pop balloons that were stuck on hay bales. Then we went to the giant swing. On the giant swing, some people had to pull up the other people on the giant swing only to drop them. It feels like you're weightless. Miss Kennedy screamed so loud you can hear her back at Nar Nar Goon. Then we went canoeing. We got stuck in the grass reeds. We played tag on hay bales and people kept falling through the gaps between each bale. We went on the low ropes course and we did the super challenge.

After lots of activities we hopped back on the bus. The driver went a different way and it was really windy. I'm pretty sure almost everyone puked. I think everyone liked Forest Lodge.

By Jaylen, Owen and Jack D

Have you ever been to Forest Lodge? Year 4/5/6 have! The start of forest lodge camp experience started off as a disco. We learnt the dance called the got up. We couldn't take the lady seriously because she was wearing a cow onesie. After the disco we had a safety talk. We had some afternoon tea and got into our sleeping groups, set up our rooms and got into our activity groups.

The canoeing activity was interesting because we got soaked, even though it was meant to be a dry activity. We played tiggy, tag and made a bridge. We were splashing everyone and we had a ball! We had a bit of a food break then out straight back into it. The flying fox was entertaining; the view was really good but the end was scary. Then we had dinner, showers. We did the night walk and saw drop bears, well, stuffed bears nailed to a tree. We had a blackout that night, it was pretty freaky.

We got up the first morning, ate breakfast, then went on with the next activities. Archery was so fun! We had to shoot balloons and get points for our table back at school. The giant swing was definitely the best activity.

It feels like you're free falling for the first 2 seconds! We started our second rotations (hut building, bush cooking, low ropes course and frisbee golf). We only got to do one of the activities due to the weather. Had lunch, then got to have some free time. We played tiggy on the hay bales and newcombe on the volleyball courts. Then dinner, showers, board games, then bed.

The third day was packed! We got packed up, had breakfast, then the rest of the day was the last of rotation activities. We put our bags on the bus, said our goodbyes, then left on the bus.

By Aidy, Tate and Tayla