

# St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

## Newsletter



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### Principal's Report

Dear Families,

#### We're coming back!

The announcement made earlier this week, by the Hon. Daniel Andrews, has provided us with a way forward, as indicated by the letter sent out on Wednesday. So many of us have been waiting for a clear set of instructions for easing the restrictions, particularly in regard to coming back to school. And now we have the good news. We no longer have to wait out the entire term, as we had initially thought. We are very excited to see everyone again, but we will need to be patient and stick to the same conditions that have been in place until then.

The Victorian State Government has announced that Victorian school students will begin a phased return to classrooms. **Monday, 25 May 2020**, will be a pupil free day to support all school staff to prepare and complete the necessary planning for a successful transition back to school. **Please note: There will be no Remote Learning on this day.**

This means that from **Tuesday, 26 May 2020**, all **Foundation (Prep), Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will return to on-site learning.**

Students in **Grades 3 to 6 will continue Remote Schooling at home until Tuesday, 9 June 2020**, except for:

- children of parents who cannot work from home;
- children who are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made; and
- vulnerable children.

#### The Challenge We Face with Reporting

As with any profession that relies on evidence, teachers are faced with a real dilemma for the upcoming reports. A psychologist doesn't make a 'leap of faith' to make a diagnosis of a condition. A doctor does not decide on a whim that someone needs a certain medication. Likewise, teachers need reliable evidence to make a professional judgement on where a child sits on the learning continuum. When teachers makes this important call, they are gathering work samples, using data from testing and sighting anecdotal evidence of independent work from children in their class. This is what we mean by reliable evidence. During the COVID-19 period, teachers have not been able to gather this kind of evidence and, as such, their ability to report authentically has been hampered.

We know that so many of our students, with the amazing support from parents and carers, have done an extraordinary job of completing tasks during this term. Likewise, it has been a time of extraordinary effort and innovation on the part of the teachers. Even so, unfortunately, the all-important evidence we speak of is not the kind we can use to make professional judgements on the students' progress. And this is the challenge we face with reporting for this semester. Next semester's work will be important for us all to get a true indication of their learning progress, and may even see some examples of greater growth than 6 months, due to the learning that has happened during *this* term.

#### Dates

##### 25.05.2020

Students Free Day –  
No Remote Learning

##### 26.05.2020

Foundation, Year One  
and Year Two students  
will return to on-site  
learning

Year 3 – 6 students will  
continue Remote  
Schooling

##### 28.05.2020

National Simultaneous  
Storytime

##### 8.06.2020

Queen's Birthday -  
Public Holiday

##### 9.06.2020

Year 3 - 6 students will  
return to on-site  
learning

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

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Issue 8

*“Building Independent and  
Responsible Learners”*

## Principal's Report Continued

### Stay Active

Our PE teacher, Dean Rodgers has provided a handy sheet attached with this week's newsletter that provides some ideas on how to stay active throughout the week. I hope our students haven't just relied on Wednesdays to keep themselves active!

Reminder: St James 'Home Learning' website – can be accessed [here](#). Check out the Help page, as this also includes notes on what to bring to school if your child needs supervision at school.

*Andy McDermott*

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Hannah and Terry Smith and family on the birth of their new little daughter/sister Phoebe Beth. We are sure she will get lots of hugs from big sister Maggie (Year One)

### Playgroup Covid-19 News

As restrictions begin to ease, discussions are being held regarding the return of face-to-face Playgroup. In consultation with the school, and based on advice from Playgroup Victoria, NNG Playgroup will continue remotely for the time being. Safety is our priority. Shared equipment and the need to clean everything for each user would be a challenge. Maintaining social distancing will also be a challenge. This decision will be reviewed on June 11 and further plans will be made. Please stay safe and if you have not yet received a delivery of toys or craft, and would like one, please send a Facebook message or leave a message with the school.

Andrea Payroli  
Playgroup Co-ordinator

### Casey Cardinia Libraries

Casey Cardinia Library is excited to launch a FREE home delivery service.

#### How do I place my order?

1. [Log in to your account](#) on this website and choose your own items or
2. [Log in to your account](#) on this website and ask for a "Binge Bag" and our friendly staff will pick a collection of items on your behalf, based on your interests.

See website for more details.

### National Simultaneous Storytime 2020

CHICKEN DIVAS is the 2020 National Simultaneous Storytime book that will be read all over Australia in May. Mrs Parker will be reading this story at St James on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Students have been sent some activities they can do in relation to the book. Mrs Parker has asked if the F-2 students can bring in the colouring of Whitney and Britney on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May so she can make a display in the Library.

## 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, TBA**

### **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

#### **Next P & F Meeting, TBA**

### **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.

## Remote Learning News

### **Foundation & Year One**

The Foundation and Year 1 students have been busy engaging in lots of video learning with Miss Hodgens and Mrs Bolton. It's been great to see our students communicating with one another during these times and working hard at the learning happening. We have been reading aloud to each other, working on our sight words and doing some Maths learning together.

- I have been practising sounding out words and writing sentences- Scarlett
- I have liked watching videos on lots of different animals like in our Science learning- Travis
- I know all my golden words and red words, and can now work on the next ones!- Finn
- I have been practising my golden words by writing them out using chalk. -Jasmine
- I have enjoyed learning about 3D objects in Maths and learning about whales and mammals for Science. -Jack
- I have liked learning about different animals in our Science learning. –Harper

### **Two/Three GB**

We have started procedural writing as our focus in writing sessions. In a procedural text we need an aim or introduction, the materials that you need and the steps with how to do it. You can also have a conclusion. When we are in Google Meets we share them so people can give feedback and we can make our writing even more interesting. – Indigo

When we have been remote learning I have enjoyed Art lessons, especially this week. The reason why I liked this week is because we got to make a fish and do arty, crafty stuff. We needed cardboard, paper, paint and paintbrushes. I like how we got to do patterns on our fish. I chose to do spots on mine. – Imelda

In Reading, we have been reading on RAZ kids and Epic. One of the books I have read was a little bit creepy, that was a book on ghosts. I also found out that I love Bigfoot. - Callum

In Religion, we have started learning about our mission. So far we have been learning about talents and gifts. They are special things and we should appreciate them. I listed that I am good at athletics, swimming and being helpful. I can share my helpfulness by going out and helping dad with the chooks. – Chloe L

In sport, we have been learning how to dribble the soccer ball. You put the ball between your feet and kick it side to side by walking. We have been passing into a wall and trapping back, which is like catching the ball back in your feet. – Hugo

In Maths, we have started trying vertical algorithms to solve subtraction problems. We have learnt other strategies as well. We have used the number line strategy, using MAB blocks and partitioning. I have found the vertical algorithms easiest. – Xanthe

### **Two/Three JK**

- Holly - I liked making the card with the flower on it
- Ruby - I have liked doing art because I love craft and when I get bored I think of craft things to do.
- Joshua - This week I have had heaps of fun in Maths. We have been learning subtraction and it has been fun.
- Tate - This week I really enjoyed doing the Mother's Day activities and doing the carp fish art activity today.
- Jasmine - I loved doing the pamper for Mother's Day. In 2/3 JK we made a face cream with oil and sugar, a special foot spa with a little bit of lemon, we gave our Mum's hand massages and we painted their nails.

### **Year Four/Five/Six**

Now that we are coming to the end of the remote learning, this could be a good time to reflect on the lessons that we have learnt during this time, and I'm not just talking about English and Maths (though these lessons have been important, too).

During this time, we have all learnt to be more effective and efficient in our communication. Teachers, parents and students have worked hard to communicate well in regard to student learning. We have been mindful of individual learning needs and communicated through emails, phone calls and Meets. The lines of communication have helped teachers and parents provide the best learning possible for the students.

Another important lesson is that we have a greater shared vision of the student learning. Parents and teachers have seen the highs and lows of student learning together at this time. This shared understanding would be fantastic to maintain once school returns to a more normal pace!

With these important lessons, maybe remote learning hasn't been a chore. Maybe we should continue remote learning for the rest of the year..... No, I am definitely joking! I can't wait to see the students back in front of us at school!!!!!!

Seriously, though, I would really like to thank all of the teachers, parents and carers for putting in such huge effort with the efforts with our students this term. Well done!

## St Francis Xavier College 2021 Interviews

Dear Parents and Guardians

We write to you today to advise you that the second round of interviews for Year 7 2021 have now been undertaken. These interviews consisted of Catholic feeder school families, Catholic and non-Catholic families.

We encourage any families who have not yet submitted their application to do so. In previous years, we have found that some families from our Catholic feeder schools who have submitted paperwork late have been placed on a waiting list or have not received the Campus of their choice.

If you require a replacement Application form they can be downloaded at <https://sfx.vic.edu.au/admissions/application/>. During remote learning our Campuses are closed but once we re-open an Application form can be picked up from the Reception at all 3 of our Campuses. Our mail is still being collected if you would like to post your application or it can be scanned to [enrol@sfx.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrol@sfx.vic.edu.au)

Those families that have already been interviewed and offered a place at the College will receive details regarding Orientation Day later in the year.

## HOW TO MAKE AN 'EMOTIONAL CHECK-IN' CHART

1. Gather your supplies - cardboard or paper, icy-pole sticks, pens, scissors, texta's or pencils.
2. Cut out the 'pockets'
3. Write on the different emotions ( you might like to add - 'I'd like to talk about how I feel' )  
Feel free to add any that you like...
4. Decorate with pictures
5. Stick on the pockets
6. Write family members names on the icy pole sticks
7. Hang on the wall or the fridge

### How to use your Emotional Check-in chart

1. Get everyone to put their 'stick' into a pocket at the beginning of the day.
2. Peoples emotions change lots of times throughout the day - you may need to move your stick around depending on how you're feeling.

