

St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

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Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Welcome back 4/5/6s

It was a very cold morning on Tuesday, but the sun was out and the beaming faces from the 4/5/6 students brought some much-needed warmth to our hearts. Thankfully, all cohorts are now back at school and learning in a face-to-face model. It's not quite 'back to normal', due to the extra cleaning, disinfecting and social distancing but at least we have the children here in person, which is what the teachers dearly prefer.

Until further notice we still cannot hold assemblies or have parents on site, but I will let everyone know as soon as possible when the directives change. Be sure to have your St James app ready to receive notifications, as this will be the medium to convey this sort of information.

Looking back over the Remote Learning period, I have a few statistics that may be of interest. St James uses the suite of Google applications and we were able to create a report that shows the activity during this time. Schoolwide, there were 733 Google Meet video conferences, 59 427 emails and 19 779 files created. That's not bad for a school of 119 students!

I would like to thank everyone again for the cooperation with the traffic and car park protocols. It has been extremely helpful.

'Have Your Say on Remote Learning' Online Survey

The Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino MP, announced on 9 June 2020 a community consultation survey regarding Remote Schooling. The Education State: Lessons from Remote and Flexible Learning Survey is intended to gain insights into how the Victorian education system can be improved following on from the COVID-19 experience. Attached with this week's newsletter is the letter to invite you to participate in the Survey. The cut off date is July 3.

Pupil Free Day Friday 26th June

Just a reminder that the last day of term is no school for students at St James. Friday 26th June was in fact planned as a closure well before the COVID-19 period. It will provide time for staff to plan for term three. Please note that the government announcement for the recent pupil free day was specifically for Remote Learning planning and logistics. Mark this date in your calendars.

Andy McDermott

12th June 2020

Issue 10

"Building Independent and Responsible Learners"

Term Two School Closure Days

Friday 26th June 2020 will be a school closure day; staff will be involved in preparing Term Three curriculum.

Last day of term two will be **Thursday 25th June 2020**, with a 3:30pm finish.

NCCD Data Collection

Every year schools must now complete the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or "help" at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability. For further detail relating to the NCCD, see the attachment in today's newsletter

Awards

Monday 1st June

Foundation/One KH

Jackson – giving phonics revision a red hot go
Jack – excellent work sounding out independently during writing

Foundation/One LK

Finn – great start back at school
Miles – working hard in writing

Year Two/Three GB

Jack – wonderful work with reading
Kobi – fantastic efforts with reading and his multiplication tables

Year Two/Three JK

Tate – amazing work in Maths and measurement
Matilda – excellent partner work during our measurement activity
Elizabeth – producing a very detailed narrative plan

Foundation & Year One News

Foundation and Year 1 students have been learning lots about different animals for our Writing and Science unit. Last week we explored sea turtles and this week we have looked at chickens.

- I loved learning about chickens because I learnt new information about them. I have also enjoyed spelling. -Arthur
- I have enjoyed writing about chickens because I have lots of chickens at home. -Harvey
- I have enjoyed writing about chickens because it is fun. -Luca
- I loved how Miss Hodgens accidentally said sea chickens. I have enjoyed doing sport because it is fun. -Scarlett
- I liked learning about chickens because they lay eggs and we eat them. -Finn
- I have loved learning and writing about chickens because I love writing. -Georgie
- I liked learning about sea turtles because they are really interesting. -Holly
- I have enjoyed completing number sequences in maths. -Eve
- I have enjoyed doing handwriting because I have the letter a in my name. -Bailee

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 | |

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.

Two/Three GB News

In writing, we have been writing narratives. We have been looking at a picture and writing a whole story about that picture. We had a picture that had an old track that trains used to go on. There was a tree in the middle of the track. In my story, the train fell down into the river below. - Jack

In maths, we have been learning about directions. We completed a task where there were directions on the top of a piece of paper. We had to follow the directions to find the way out of a maze. Then we went outside and we played a game where we partnered up and had to follow the directions of our partner. - Amayah

In religion, we have been learning about the creation story. We had to group up in 3's to act out to the class what happened in the creation story. I think that it was engaging. - Harry

In art, we have been colouring in pictures by Van Gough. We have been researching the colours that he used. - Callum

In sport, we have been practising triple jump. You have to hop, step and jump. We did a jog to the sand pit first, then practised the triple jump into the sand pit. - Kaleb

In integrated studies, we found out that archaeologists looked around and found some things and dug them up from years ago. They found things like old tools, rock paintings and fossils from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people from as long as 50,000 years ago. - Milla

Year Four/Five/Six News

Here are some reflections from our students who are now back at school...

What's good about coming back to school?

Firstly: It's good to come back to school because you don't have to do your homework around your brother and sisters if you have them.

Secondly: You don't get distracted by things around you like if you have animals.

Thirdly: It's easier to get help at school because you can just go up to a teacher when you need it but if you're at home, it might not be as easy.

Fourthly: It was hard to get all our work sometimes you had to find where everything was.

Fifthly: at school, the teachers could explain it on the white board but at home some people didn't have white boards so it was harder.

Sixthly: We get to come back and see all our friends and teachers that we hadn't seen for a long time.

By Lily

The best part about it is I'm in a working environment I'm used to. I also like going back to school to see Mr. Vermeer and my friends.

By Josh

I think that there are two cool and good things about physically going to school. The first one is how we can see our friends that aren't on the laptop screen. The second thing is that you can play on a playground and build cubes or even play footy and that is why you should think that going to school is a brilliant and fun thing to do.

By Harry

I think coming to school is better than home schooling because it's really easy to learn. Coming to school is less distracting than at home because you might have a brother or sister. This is my opinion about school and home schooling!

By Joel

A positive thing about coming back to school would be being able to socialise with your classmates. Being at home all day by yourself or with siblings can be a little lonely or a little boring, so it's good to talk to other people and hear how they managed to get through remote learning. When you're at school, learning seems to be a lot easier than looking at a screen all day. Especially since that's what most kids do all the time. Learning is much better at school, take that from a student who's had the best of both worlds.

By Tayla

Dates to Remember 2020

| 25.06.2020 | 26.06.2020 | 13.07.2020 | 18.08.2020 | 19.08.2020 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Last day of term for all students | School Closure | Term Three Commences | Family Conferences | Family Conferences |

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