



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

21st August 2020 Issue 14

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Midway Point – Hang in there

A quote that feels really relevant now:

When we long for life without difficulties,
remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds
and diamonds are made under pressure. *Peter Marshall*

Here we are at just past the mid-point of Term 3 and living through this Stage-4 Covid -19 lockdown, which has placed restrictions on so many aspects of our lives. As we work together to stop the spread of Covid-19, the slogan - Staying Apart Keeps Us Together - reminds us of our reality and the reason for all the sacrifices people are being asked to make. Our thoughts are with you all and we are acutely aware that the lack of normal routine, the requirement to work from home, the reduced work hours, and for some, the loss of jobs, are all factors contributing to an already challenging situation.

As parents of young children, you have the added layer of supporting dependents to access their learning. We understand the demands many of you are facing on the home front and appreciate the commitment, support and effort so many of you have displayed in your determination to make the best of the situation.

Here's my gratitude list:

- Thank you for working hard to help your child engage with the work their teachers have set.
- Thank you for coming up with your own inspired alternatives when you see the need.
- Thank you for allowing your child to pursue their interests in various school projects such as the Passion Projects, 101 Days of Learning, Spanish Hot Chocolate, Mindfulness Meditation for wellbeing and class work.
- Thank you for fostering their engagement even when it takes over your life, your lounge room, kitchen, backyard etc.
- Thank you for emailing work through to our teachers, encouraging children to share in their Google Meets and uploading work to Google Classroom.

We have had some wonderful feedback from parents and also heard concerns from those who are worried their child might be falling behind the expected standard or may need to repeat a year level. Just remember that children all over the state, indeed all over the world are experiencing a similar situation and that teachers will all be adjusting their programs and approaches when school does get back to normal (and it will!). The standard may need a little adjustment, some concessions and some realignment of the scope and sequence of work but all the essentials will still be covered.

Hang in there!

Andy McDermott

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Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

***Building Independent and
Responsible Learners***



Principal's Report Continued

Call-to-Test Service (Community Announcement)

Call-to-Test - Reaching out to vulnerable Victorians

The Call-to-Test service will enable vulnerable Victorians in metropolitan Melbourne to be tested for COVID-19 at home with a qualified health clinician. The service will provide access for people who cannot leave home due to injury, mobility or other eligible reasons.

Access to the Call-to-Test service will be available to individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms and meet the following criteria:

- people with an injury, chronic health issue, or frailty affecting mobility
- people with moderate to severe physical or psychosocial disability
- people with moderate to severe mental health or behavioural issues not otherwise classified as a psychosocial disability
- carers for a person with moderate to severe disability.

People without symptoms may be eligible if they have been identified by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as being a close contact, have received direction from DHHS to be tested, and meet any of the criteria detailed above.

A referral from a General Practitioner for a COVID-19 test is required to access the Call-to-Test service, unless a person has been directed to get a test by DHHS because they are a close contact.

Further information in relation to Call-to-Test service can be found on the DHHS website.

Optional Weekly Activities

There is a company that have offered free weekly lockdown ideas for kids with an assortment of interesting activities to do at home. I would like to put it out there as *optional* activities for those that would like to supplement what we are doing already with Remote Learning. We're all in different situations with regard to finding things to do at home. Some families would love some weekend ideas. Some would like to explore extra things to do throughout the week when school work is done. If you like the sound of this, feel free to pick and choose from the ideas on the attached planner...or not!

I would like to remind everyone that at times, you are going to need to "down tools". This is OK. It may be more important to go outside and take a walk or make a hot chocolate.

Be kind to yourselves and remember that the staff and I have you in our prayers.

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

Committee Members:

Ryan Lawlor

Justine Langley

Steph Katta

Tory Parker (Secretary)

Liz Cunningham

Parents and Friends

Committee Members for 2020 are:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Monday Lunches

Advisory Committee Representative

Meagan Rogers

Karen Lawlor

Emma Spoard

Donna Reilly

Justine Langley



SunSmart Policy

As St James is a 'SunSmart' school, we follow the guidelines set out to ensure protection from UV rays. It may seem strange to be wary of sunrays at this point in the year and we also know how crucially important it is to absorb an appropriate amount of sun for Vitamin D levels, especially as this plays an important role in moods and wellbeing. Having said this, we need to approach safety in the sun with balance, and this is the time of the year when sunhats *may* be required. We no longer have in the policy, a strict date that the 'No Hat No Play' policy comes into effect. We are guided by the UV levels and respond appropriately.

For the students who are attending school at the moment, we ask that families please ensure school sunhats are brought to school. They need to be clearly named and not have the drawstring under the neck (the approved sunhats for school have the drawstring above the brim, to secure around the child's head). We will ask the students to wear them when it is deemed necessary.

SunSmart also advises that sunscreen protection is invaluable for prevention of skin damage. Children are encouraged to bring SPF 30+ broad-spectrum sunscreen from home for their personal use (Cream or roll-on, No aerosols). Having a personal supply of sunscreen ensures it has been approved by parents and suits each child's skin. For younger children it is an advantage to teach your children at home how to apply the cream. Sunglasses are also encouraged. Children are responsible for the safe keeping and wearing of sunglasses. All sunglasses need to be plain in colouring without any 'bling'!

Classroom News

Foundation/One

Foundation and Year 1 students have been continuing their Remote Learning and they are doing really well. Students have been learning all about emergency services, continued practicing their procedural writing and have started learning all about Time in Maths.

On Friday 14th August students celebrated their '101 days of learning'. We all dressed up as Dalmatians and celebrated our learning! Students participated in fun activities and we played games together during a class google meet.

Students were asked to share their favourite thing about school:

- 'Doing finger painting at school. I loved making handprints and making a dot picture.' -Jaxon
- 'Playing on the monkey bars. I can skip one bar.' -Billy
- Teddy Bear Picnic day. We had teddy bears and we had a picnic. We got to dress up in our pyjamas on this day too.' -Aanya
- 'My favourite memory is when I pretty much built the biggest tunnel.' -Raiden
- 'I love doing weekend writing.' -Betty
- 'I love seeing all of my friends!' -Jack
- 'Seeing all of my friends and teachers. I love reading and maths.' -Aislin
- 'I love solving addition and subtraction problems.' - Jackson

We have loved seeing the photos and videos of students' learning, please continue sending us photos.

Year Two/Three

In Year 2/3 we have begun exploring poetry writing. Although much of the poetry we see in texts often follow a set structure or have rhyming rules, not all poetry has to follow rules. In fact, descriptive poetry has no rules at all! Below are a range of poems the students in Year 2/3 have written over the last two weeks and we are sure you will agree, they are pretty impressive.

Lonely

Living alone
Out in the wild
No one nearby
Everyone gone
Left behind
Yelling out for help.
By Riley 2/3 GB

French Bulldogs

They have big flat heads,
They have four legs and four toes on each foot.
Their tail is very small.
Their body is covered in hair.
Their heads are soft.
They make pig sounds.
They snore very loudly and bark.
They are fast runners.
By Holly 2/3 JK

Grateful

Grandparents who love me
Riding a horse for the first time
All of our space at home
That we have a house
Exercising outside
Friends who play with me
Understanding parents
Loving family
By Indigo 2/3 GB



Year Two/Three continued

Out of my window

Looking through the black window frame.
Past my backyard.
Birds fly high in the sky.
The plants are growing big and tall.
Like the big trees moving in the breeze.
Greasy hills, lots of houses.
In the far distance, the farmer's water tanks look small,
At the tippy top of the hill the fluffy white clouds meet.
By Scarlett 2/3 JK

Out My Window

I look out the window I see a big oak fence.
One side bordered by ornamental pear trees.
In the garden bed little green cloud like shrubs
Surround the trees.
Sharp red tan bark scattered around the plants.
Fresh green grassy lawn,
Soft and fluffy under my feet.
The stepping stones,
Fun to play on.
Picturesque mountains in the background.
By Milla 2/3 GB

Out of my window

As I look out of the white sliding door,
I see a white cage with two small guinea pigs.
In front of the cage is a big black table,
down the backyard is a large black chicken coop with five brown chickens.
By Seb 2/3 JK
Out Of My Window
Through the white shutters beautiful pink flowers grow.
A dirt road and a dusty railway line run side by side.
The railway line hides a small white house,
two old cars covered in silver tarps.
A big cloudy sky surrounds everything.
By Liam 2/3 GB

Year Four/Five/Six

"Life in lockdown 2.0"

In lockdown number 2, year 456 have been learning about famous Australian people from the late 1800s to the early 2000s. People that have invented things that have changed the world. We have also been learning about money, through budgets, and other interesting ways. In religion, we have been learning about different religions that are used all over the world.

In sport, we have been doing netball and learning how to pass a netball.

In art, we have been doing a bit of sketching and abstract pictures. In music, we have been learning the art of bucket drumming. Lastly, in Spanish we have been learning about different Spanish speaking countries and how to say words in Spanish.

As much as everyone wants to be at school, and we are all having our ups and downs about remote learning, hopefully we will be back at school soon. Stay responsible, respectful and safe.

By Jack Lawlor.

Religion

Last week we looked into Mary MacKillop and the Annunciation of Mary. This week we are looking more into what our daily prayer life may look like.

During these times of struggle and turmoil, it can be easy to cast aside prayer because it is too hard or difficult. Instead, we should be embracing it as a mindful practise we can try to do a couple of times a week. Prayer can provide a similar feeling of calmness that you experience during mindful meditation. Where in mindfulness you are living in that particular moment, prayer can be a personal time to reflect on the things that have been going well and what may need more work.

Prayer does not have to be a big thing, you may like to read a passage from the bible or pray the Hail Mary, Our Father or St James Prayer. It can be as simple as having a conversation (either verbal or non verbal) with God, Jesus or Mary. We just need to give ourselves time to sort through emotions that we are currently feeling and if needed ask for help and strength during this time of unrest.

A simple prayer you may like to try can be found here. It is a meditation prayer that only takes 3 minutes. <https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer/>

I hope you are well and staying safe.

Julie Kennedy (REL)

Congratulations

The Ilic family, Travis (Year One), have welcomed a baby boy into their family. Hudson Ilic born on Thursday 13th August.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has been extended by two weeks and will now close on Friday 18th September.



Fees

All families who are experiencing financial pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have the opportunity to apply for a concession relating to their Term 3 2020 school fees.

Fee payers requesting consideration for fee relief should contact either Andrew McDermott or Michelle Collins to discuss their school fee obligations.

School fees are an essential portion of resources for the operation of our school and assist our leaders and staff to enhance curriculum and teaching programs. We therefore ask that those able to support the school financially continue to do so.

Student Absences

To avoid students having UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES, Parents/Guardians are reminded to inform the School by 9.00am 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.

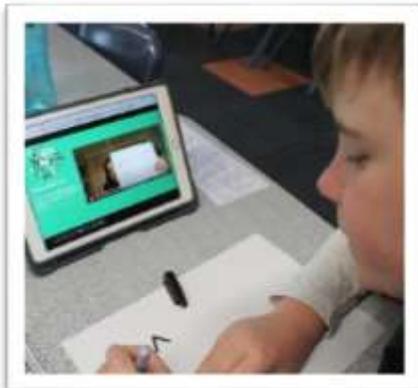
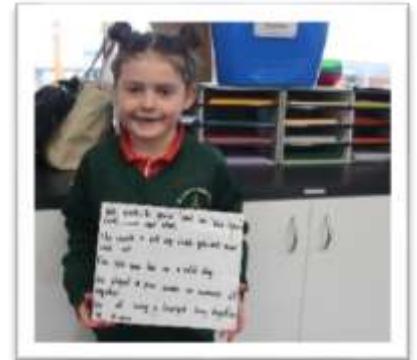
Dates to Remember

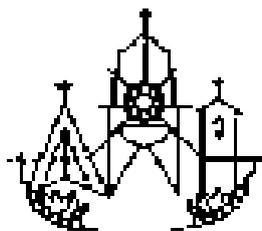
26.08.2020 Onsite School Intentions form due for w/e 4 th September	1.09.2020 Advisory Committee Meeting	2.09.2020 Onsite School Intentions form due for w/e 11 th September	6.09.2020 Father's Day
18.09.2020 End of Term 3	5.10.2020 Term Four Commence	2.11.2020 School Closure	3.11.2020 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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

What learning is looking like at school!!

We would love to show what learning looks like at home. Please send through some photos to your teacher to pass on to us for future newsletter issues.





IONA-MARYKNOLL PARISH

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August 21 2020

Dear Parishioners

I am writing this to you as we approach the half-way mark of the Stage 4 lockdown. It is important for you to know that our parish is not just hibernating.

You will be pleased to know that I have already had one virtual meeting of some members of our Parish Pastoral Council and that another one will be held in the near future.

Our first priority is to work out, within the regulations of the covid-19 restrictions as they will be at that time, a way of enabling the children who have been prepared for First Reconciliation to celebrate this very important occasion for them. We also need to work out a plan, again within the then current regulations of the covid-19 restrictions, for the Year 6 children to be able to receive the sacrament of Confirmation before the end of the year.

Whilst we hope we shall be able to celebrate our normal Christmas Masses we shall be looking at ways of making our Christmas Mass available online should we not be able to have full churches by then.

Finally, we shall also be planning a Mass of Thanksgiving for when we can have our parish celebrations without any covid-19 restrictions.

Our weekend Mass is being live-streamed each week and may be accessed from our parish website, <https://www.cdsale.org.au/ionamaryknoll>. Then click 'VIEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL'. As soon as it is allowed Mass will be live-streamed again from Iona and Nar Nar Goon.

Please know that I am still available, as much as possible, for you. You may contact me on either 5997 1510 or 0438 622 766. Please continue to pray for our parish and for all who are suffering in any way from the current covid-19 crisis.

May God bless you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rev Peter A M Kooloos
Parish Priest.