



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

7th August 2020 Issue 13

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Moving to Stage 4

I would like to reiterate some of my messages that appeared in the letter yesterday in regard to the Stage 4 intentions. It really is a difficult time for so many at the moment, especially with the very hard restrictions announced earlier this week.

It was no easy task passing on the new, tighter guidelines, which details who is eligible to attend on-site. It is so different to the way we have been operating recently and is requiring us to think differently. Tightening the restrictions is the only way we can reduce numbers here at the school. This is to keep people in our community safe and following the government guidelines is our only option.

As I watch the news reports each day and follow the Premier's announcements, I often get caught thinking things like, "If only these people who are flouting the rules would pull their head's in, we wouldn't be in this mess." It's very difficult to stay positive and stop focusing on the causes of us to be going down the track of Stage 4. For us to see Stage 4 as a six-week measure, rather than a longer one, we need to all stick to the program.

Screen Time Fights

Excerpt from the attached PDF to this newsletter:

During the early days when I was first struggling with my kids over screen time, I found that when I saw them on a screen when they weren't supposed to be, I would react quickly from a place of frustration. I knew this approach was not how I wanted to be handling things. That is when I started looking deeper at the research to understand what works best for promoting behaviours we want our children to engage in.

I came across a method of working with kids developed by psychologist Howard Glasser called The Nurtured Heart Approach. Glasser's approach is based on his observation that children so often get attention when they are acting up, but adults often ignore them when things are going well. Children want attention, and there are times they may even act out just to get that attention. Glasser wanted to see what would happen if adults started directing their energy toward the behaviours they want more of in their kids, rather than putting energy into the undesired actions. Sure enough, when this approach is employed, so often it leads to more of the behaviours we want to see in our kids — including around screen time issues.

This is gold and works for more than just screen time fights so I highly recommend having a look at the attached article.

Absences – Notifying School

We have made a recent change to the cut-off time for parents to inform the office if a child is absent from school (or in terms of the current climate, unable to attend to learning at home). Instead of 9:30am, we are bringing that cut-off time to 9:00am. This will help us with absence procedures but I think it is reasonable to assume that parents can let us know before school starts that their child will be away from school. Don't forget that in all instances, parents need to let the school know of the *reason* for the absence and not just that they will be away. The website and newsletter information has been updated to reflect this change and may I thank all the families that do this proactively each time, as it saves the office staff from having to make extra phone calls

Andy McDermott

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812

Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

**Building Independent and
Responsible Learners**



Classroom News

Foundation/One

Foundation and Year 1 students have been doing fantastic learning over the last few weeks! Students have been learning how to solve addition and subtraction problems by counting on/back and using tens frames, number lines and pictures. Students have also been exploring procedural writing. Students have written about how to brush your teeth, how to make play dough, how to make a smoothie and how to make a hot chocolate.

- I have enjoyed painting in Art. I painted using watercolours. I had to mix the paint with water to use them on the paper. -Jackson
- I enjoyed using watercolours to make a flower wheel. -Sophie
- I have enjoyed adding numbers such as 5 plus 5 equal 10. -Aanya
- I have enjoyed doing stretches, balancing and playing go-touch in P.E. -Finn
- I have enjoyed learning about addition and subtraction because I love Maths. -Aislin
- I love Maths. I have enjoyed solving subtraction problems. -Scarlett

Year Two/Three

Wow! What a start to the term. The Year 2/3's have rolled into the second round of remote learning quite well. In English, we continue to work on a range of comprehension strategies in our warm ups as well as through the CARS and STARS program. We have revised some of our text types that we explored earlier in the year. Students are becoming very good at developing and expanding on their arguments and continue to develop confidence in editing their work. This will provide them with great skills to argue for and against ideas (sorry parents if the students begin to try and negotiate new bed times!) We are beginning to explore grammar to a deeper level. Students are looking at different types of nouns including common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns and collective nouns. Did you know the collective noun for bats is a cauldron or that a group of flamingos is known as a flamboyance?

In Mathematics, we have been learning about statistics and probability through chance and data games. We have been continuing to see Mr B's vast collection of Sydney paraphernalia in his videos (surely it must end soon!) We have also been learning how to present the data collected in graphs to clearly show our findings. This week we have begun to explore capacity, which should be very enjoyable (Mrs Kennedy said to say fun).

In Religion, we have been learning about the choices we make and the impact on others. This is timely as we are able to see the real life effects on our impacts during this hard and stressful time.

In Health, we have been learning about the parts of our brain and what their roles are and why they are important. Last week we also completed a digital literacy course through Google to have a safer presence online. If you would like to learn more about it, you can go to this website. https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland/

Time to Come in Bear - A Children's story about Social Distancing

This is a lovely story. Click on the link https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w



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	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

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812

Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

*Building Independent and
Responsible Learners*



Family Conferences

Family Conferences will be held on Tuesday 18th August between 3.40pm – 6.00pm and Wednesday 19th August between 2.00pm – 5.00pm via Google Meet. Teachers will set up a code.

You can now book your interview times by going online; this enables you to choose a time that suits your family best.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au Please see attached flyer for instructions on how to book.

Religion

The Feast Day of Mary MacKillop and the Assumption of the Mary

As many of you might agree, this time is incredibly trying on all of us and we would normally be sharing Mass together and learning about Saint Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) and the Assumption of Mary. Instead, I thought I would take the time to share a little about both the important Mary's in our Church.

This week we would be celebrating the feast of Saint Mary MacKillop. She is Australia's first saint. You can find out more about her by watching this video. Mary was an incredibly impressive person who stood against the odds and did what was right. "Never see a need without trying to do something about it" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2ZTtBzhOn0>

Next week we would be celebrating the feast of the Assumption of Mary. This can be a hard thing to understand. In our Catholic faith, we believe that Mary was taken to heaven both body and soul. Assumption means that we accept this without proof, because how can we actually prove that Mary was taken to heaven?

In 1950, the Pope Pius XII defined the assumption as a dogma (a belief that is true), that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. (Loyola Press, 2019) Again how could this be? However, as we learn more about Mary and the choices she made, saying Yes to God and her openness to allow God to work through her we understand that Mary's role is crucial in God's plan of salvation for us all. Looking at the Gospel of John (Jn 2:5), one of the few times Mary is referenced as saying something, she asks people to "Do whatever he tells you". She is like a lighthouse weathering the storm, showing us the way and keeping us safe, much like our own mothers.

Be safe during this time of uncertainty and lean on your faith when you need strength.

Julie Kennedy (REL)

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.

Congratulations

The Atkins family have welcomed a baby boy into their family. Freddie Gerard Atkins born on Tuesday 21st July. Congratulations to Alicia, Gerard and Betty (Year One).

Dates to Remember

14.08.2020 Foundations 100 Days of Learning	18.08.2020 Family Conferences 3.40pm – 6.00pm	19.08.2020 Family Conferences 2.00pm – 5.00pm	18.09.2020 End of Term 3
---	--	--	------------------------------------

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



Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812

Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

**Building Independent and
Responsible Learners**