



# St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Issue 16

## Principal's Report

*Dear Families,*

### Term 4

Today is the last day of Term 3, and we continue to monitor the situation with COVID and case numbers. Keeping our eyes peeled for the statistical data is our daily ritual, as there is a lot riding on the downward trend of case numbers. Regardless of your views on the 'roadmap', at least we have a way forward with regard to a return to school for our students. As stated in my letter recently, it looks very likely we will be able to bring the Foundations to Year 3s to face to face teaching on **October 12**. This is truly exciting for us to get back to some sort of normal. Remote Learning is not our preferred mode of teaching and the teachers are really looking forward to seeing their students return. We hope that the Year 4s to 6s, will be able to return as soon as possible too. The roadmap indicates that if the state target of less than five cases over 14 days is met, and it is safe to do so, they will be able to return to onsite learning from **October 26** at the earliest.

I am eternally grateful for the effort, persistence and patience of our families and school staff during this trying time. It has been yet another interrupted and challenging term. I am a very strong believer in the idea that God gives us what we need, not what we want. If we are to be challenged and given opportunities to grow as a result of adversity, then this is what we need. I often have to adjust my thinking so that I don't pray for hardship to be lifted from us. Rather, I refocus and pray that we find the *strength to deal with* the hardship. Experts agree that changing our mindset is often the remedy for poor mental health and gives us the capacity to deal with uncomfortable or challenging situations.

The teachers have some clear plans on how to approach term 4. We have discussed as a team, the need for us to build a positive mindset with the children to allow for learning to be effective and progressive. There will be no point in setting unrealistic expectations about the content to cover. The wellbeing and mindset of the students is our top priority when we return to face-to-face teaching.

### iPads 2021

Next year's plan for the 1:1 Learning Tool Program, where iPads are the tool of choice, does NOT include Year 2s. We understand that families with a student in Year 1 this year would potentially need time to organise this, but be assured that they will NOT need an iPad for 2021. Please note that all students who *currently* have an iPad for the program will *continue* to use them next year.

**Andy McDermott**

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## Classroom News

### Foundation/One

Foundation and Year 1 students have continued to explore books by Margaret Wild for our Author Study unit. This week we focused on *Chalk Boy*. Just like in the book, students created their own chalk drawing on concrete or on a piece of paper using one colour and an outline. It was great to see so much creativity!

In Maths over the past couple of weeks, we have been exploring Data Representation using graphs. They have learnt what Data is, how to collect it and ways to represent gathered information on different types of graphs. This has been a great opportunity for students to get in contact with their family and friends to gather information. Students have been doing a great job representing the information they have collected on their graphs!

It was great to see students joining their class for a Google Meet on Friday for a crazy hair and hat theme. It was wonderful to see students engaging in games and wearing their crazy hair or hat with pride!

### Year Two/Three

Students in Year 2/3 were asked to reflect on their experience throughout this term of remote learning. Here is a snapshot of some of the responses.

I enjoyed doing poems. I liked to do Haikus because it gave me a challenge. I liked doing descriptive poems like the 'looking out the window' poem because I got to see things I didn't see before. - Xanthe 2/3GB

I really enjoyed RE and the Douglas talk video. I also enjoyed mass and arrays in Maths. Art class has been interesting and fun but challenging to find the right shapes and lines in the right spots without Mrs Taweel. - Imelda 2/3GB

I enjoyed lots of things, but my favourite is maths when we were working on how much a container can hold. - Jasmine 2/3JK

I enjoyed writing my descriptive poetry. I also like Haiku. I like haiku because I can write what I like. - Tyson 2/3GB

The learning task I enjoyed the most was Maths. I liked learning arrays the best out of all the Maths. - Liam 2/3GB

I have really enjoyed Math because of all the times tables we have done together. - Jackson 2/3JK

Religion has not been too hard for me and I have been loving the activities. I have also been liking Maths and the measuring. It has been very engaging and fun. - Chloe L 2/3GB

The most interesting thing is Art because it is fun and interesting because you can paint and you can make things. - Evie 2/3GB

I really enjoyed doing acrostic poetry this term. - Ben 2/3JK

Writing Haikus is interesting because they tell a little story in 3 sentences. I was able to learn about syllables too. - Tom 2/3GB

I enjoy Art because it is fun. I also enjoy the beatitudes because I love the art parts. - Callum 2/3GB

### 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

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## Year Four/Five/Six

Clae asked the students in the class what they are doing for their holidays:

Tristan is going to play his Nintendo switch and go on a bike ride with one of his friends. He going to ride his motorcycle and take his dog on a walk. He will sleep in.

Will is going to ride his bike.

Josh is going to go on a walk maybe play his iPad and do star gazing. He might go on a bike ride to the pond.

Issy will be going on a walk, maybe get some eggs and feed the gold fish.

Clae is going to go on a lot of bike rides and go to the shop and ride his motorcycle in the paddock. He will take my dog on a walk each some movies.

Tate is going on a lot of bike rides with a few of his mates. He will also ride motorbikes with a friend. He will also be watching movies.

## Spring Gardens

While our year has been a little different, Mother Nature continues to do her thing without too much disruption. Before we finished Term 2, our group of dedicated gardeners planted a winter / spring crop of cauliflower, cabbage, sugar snap peas and onions. With a good amount of rain and plenty of sunshine, the veggies are growing and flourishing, getting closer to being picked.

Almost as exciting as a mountain stage of the Tour de France or a replay of a swans premiership, is the flowers on the fruit trees. Hundreds of buds have opened in recent weeks, which leaves us hopeful that we will have our first bumper season of fruit for students to pick straight from the tree. With all going well, I look forward to getting the gardeners back together to sample some of the fruits of their labour.

Mr Balzary



## Asthma Awareness

Spring is the season where the weather warms, flowers begin to bloom and there's an overall sense of new beginning in the air. Yet we all know that 2020 has and continues to be, a big year for people with asthma. So, as we spring into the season, take time to take a breather.

This is about **YOU** – putting your health and wellbeing at the forefront, even for just a few minutes each day.

To help you in this journey, we have some ideas and activities that might help you take a break and help to get your asthma well controlled. We've created a [Take a Breather Checklist](#) that you can download and, keep handy!

For more information <https://asthma.org.au/>

## Dates to Remember

<b>5.10.2020</b> Term Four Commences All students Remote Learning	<b>12.10.2020</b> Foundation to Grade 3 return to on-site schooling. Grade 4 to 6 students continue remote learning.	<b>23.10.2020</b> Grand Final Public Holiday	<b>26.10.2020</b> Potential staged return for on-site schooling for students in Grade 4 to 6	<b>2.11.2020</b> School Closure	<b>3.11.2020</b> Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
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Dates are subject to change, for updates please check our school Website or App.

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## Religion

We have made it, to the end of term 3. I am sure we are all exhausted and ready for a relaxing holiday to commence. I would like to share a poetic prayer I found that I think sums up very nicely what we have sacrificed and achieved as a collective group during this incredibly challenging time. We can often find ourselves frustrated because things have not gone our way, we did not get what we want or something takes longer than we think it should. I choose to think that this time of separateness has been a gift in disguise. We have been able to spend more time as a family, get to see how our children's brains process and explore new learning and just have the time to BE with our loved ones. We cannot deny it has been hard to be so restricted in what we are able to do, however within that restraint we can find joy in the small things we would take for granted. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you all next term.

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](mailto: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.



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