



# St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Issue 15

## Principal's Report

*Dear Families,*

### Happy Father's Day

Hope all the Dads out there are able to enjoy their special day on Sunday. I know not all fathers are able to be in the same vicinity but hopefully with some help from Zoom or Facetime, you can contact your loved ones on this day. I'll be firing up the Kamado BBQ and doing some low and slow cooking on this day to share with my family, so here's hoping there is some nice weather to go with it! Refer to the lovely Father's Day prayer that Julie Kennedy has provided further into the newsletter.

### Waiting for Premier's Announcements

As soon as information comes through from the Department of Education and the Catholic Education Office, we will let you know what the near future looks like for schools. The 'roadmap' and hopefully some easing of restrictions in future announcements will give us an idea of how Term 4 will look. The State of Emergency has been extended to 13<sup>th</sup> Sep, where on this day, more detail will come from the Premier. It's still difficult to estimate the way things will work for schools at this point in time but I anticipate that some clarity will come after this date.

### Raising Children Network

No one was prepared for the issues we are facing, as a result of the coronavirus. Families are experiencing a lot of pressure at this time, and we need to be on the lookout for support material that can help us get through this.

The government has partnered with Raising Children Network and funded a 10-episode podcast called Raising Learners featuring parenting experts from organisations including the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Career Education Association Victoria and the eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman-Grant.

Raising Learners will provide parents with practical advice, tips and ideas for supporting children's health, wellbeing and engagement at school. Topics will include connecting with your child's school community, how to best support your child's learning, and how to keep your child safe online.

These themes were drawn from common parent questions received by the Department of Education and Training's coronavirus hotline and parentline. The first three episodes were launched on Tuesday 1 September 2020 with the remaining episodes available throughout Terms 3 and 4, 2020. Raising Learners will be available via the Raising Children Network and podcast Apps.

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## Internet Safety

When we raise children, there are some things we teach them that come naturally as parents, like teaching them to walk, talk, eat, swim, cross the road etc. We wouldn't dream of letting a toddler walk down the street to the shops by themselves. We hold their hand and model good behaviours, and we ensure that they learn within the bounds of being safe. We let go of their hand and let them cross the road when we know they are ready. We allow them to jump into the water at the beach when we know they have the skills to swim unaided.

The same thinking can be applied to allowing our kids to jump online. They need guidance, and clear boundaries in much the same way. It's extremely risky to set up a TV or allow a child to roam the Internet by themselves in their bedroom. This is just like letting the toddler walk down the street without holding their hand.

At school, we have curriculum that we cover that delves into Internet Safety. But we know all too well that Internet Safety is only going to be something understood and enacted when the values and conversations come from home too. I have included a very comprehensive resource in today newsletter that helps families broach this topic. It doesn't come naturally, because the Internet has not been around for that long. I didn't surf the Internet until I was at university, so it wasn't part of my innate parenting toolkit! It was something I needed to upskill myself.

Taken from the Google resource attached with this week's newsletter...

*We first created the **Be Internet Awesome** curriculum for educators. Teaching digital safety and citizenship is a crucial component of today's classroom, but home will always be the foundation of any child's learning, and healthy online habits are no different.*

*Technology moves fast, and staying ahead of the curve can be a challenge in itself. We've created this guide for families to make it easier to incorporate and practice good digital habits in your everyday lives. Packed with good stuff, this guide will help you and your kids discuss, learn, and think together about the five areas of Internet awesomeness:*

*Smart, Share with Care  
Alert, Don't Fall for Fake  
Strong, Secure Your Secrets  
Kind, It's Cool to Be Kind  
Brave, When in Doubt, Talk It Out*

**Andy McDermott**

**Principal**

### 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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## Last Day of Term Three

Last day for students is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Students finish at 2.30pm. Buses will run to a 2.30pm finish on this day.

## Classroom News

### Foundation/One

Foundation and Year 1 students have started exploring Margaret Wild for our Author Study unit. Students did a fantastic job researching who Margaret Wild is. It was great to see the facts that students found about her life as well as the different books she has written. This week we have explored *The Pocket Dogs* and students have done a wonderful job retelling the story and writing a book review.

In Maths over the last few weeks students have been exploring Time. They have learnt the days of the week, months of the year and have been looking at the minute and hour hand. We have discussed what number the minute hand is pointing to for O'Clock and Half Past. Students have been doing an excellent job drawing the hands on clock faces to show what they have learnt.

We have been coming together on Fridays for a Google Meet with our classes to socialise and play some games. It has been great to see students interacting with each other and engaging in the games.

### Year Two/Three

As part of their unit of work on Health and Wellbeing, the 2/3 students watched a short video about the "truth" around the story of the three little pigs. This story was told from the side of the wolf and he attempts to explain that things were not as they seemed. In his search for sugar to bake a cake, his sneezing just happened to cause the demolition of the little pigs houses and the pigs were really unkind to him. Students were asked to reflect on the story from the perspective of A.T. Wolf to highlight how it is always important to consider others and to not judge before you have all the information. Students reflected on the important parts of the text, how they thought the wolf was feeling, why they felt the wolf acted that way and whether he had been misunderstood. Here are some responses.

AT Wolf went to get sugar. He needed sugar. I think he felt sad. He was misunderstood. - Holly 2/3 JK

AT Wolf had a cold. His sneezing caused the houses to collapse. The wolf couldn't believe that the pig was home! Were his actions easy to understand or misunderstood? Yes and no. - Xanthe 2/3 GB

AT Wolf was looking for a cup of sugar and got arrested. I think he was feeling kind of happy and kind of sad. His actions were easy to understand. - Josh 2/3JK

### Year Four/Five/Six

Some of our 4/5/6 students were asked about their reflection on Stage 4:

I'm finding it really boring because I can't really see my friends and there's not a lot of people at school to play with.

By Tristan

I find it annoying because Victoria has the most cases and that means I can't see my friends.

By Josh

I would prefer to see my friends.

By William

I hope that I can have some play dates with my friends in the holidays.

By Nathan

I feel good with my life because I sometimes see my friends.

By Isabelle



## Religion

GOD OUR FATHER, WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE FOR FATHERS YOUNG AND OLD.

WE PRAY FOR YOUNG FATHERS, NEWLY EMBRACING THEIR VOCATION; MAY THEY FIND COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE TO BALANCE WORK, FAMILY AND FAITH IN JOY AND SACRIFICE.

WE PRAY FOR OUR OWN FATHERS AROUND THE WORLD WHOSE CHILDREN ARE LOST OR SUFFERING; MAY THEY KNOW THAT THE GOD OF COMPASSION WALKS WITH THEM IN THEIR SORROW.

WE PRAY FOR MEN WHO ARE NOT FATHERS BUT STILL MENTOR AND GUIDE US WITH FATHERLY LOVE AND ADVICE.

WE REMEMBER FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS, AND GREAT GRANDFATHERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US BUT WHO LIVE FOREVER IN OUR MEMORY AND NOURISH US WITH THEIR LOVE.

We hope every Father, Grandparent and male role model has a wonderful weekend with your families. We remember that God gave up his only Son so that we might be saved by him. We therefore recognise that these special men in our lives sacrifice a lot to support our families. We appreciate all the hard work you do to support us.

### St Teresa of Calcutta

This Friday is the Feast day of St Teresa of Calcutta. Most of us have heard about Mother Teresa and have seen her good works in Calcutta (India). She is remembered wearing a white sari with blue stripes. Mother Teresa is well known for her works with the poor, sick and dying people. She opened many homes for sick people, the first being the Home for the Dying in 1952. In 1977 she was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work in peace.

She is an important woman in the Catholic Church and showed us what can be done for others humbly and without fanfare or celebration. Mother Teresa also placed a large emphasis on prayer, "We need to find God and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is in the silence" (Mother Teresa, 1983).

I hope you and your families are doing well and take the time to find God in the silence of our busy days.

### 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.

### Dates to Remember

<b>6.09.2020</b> Father's Day	<b>18.09.2020</b> End of Term 3 2.30pm finish	<b>5.10.2020</b> Term Four Commence	<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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