



# St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Issue 19

## Principal's Report

*Dear Families,*

### Remembrance Day

Another event that brought back some sense of 'normal' was the Remembrance Day service on Wednesday. All of the St James classes tuned in to the live broadcast of the Victorian Shrine of Remembrance service. It was a very good production and the students should be very proud of themselves with the way they respectfully observed the silence and watched intently. This event provides a meaningful expression of gratitude and the children really stepped up.

### Technology – it's great when it works

The shutdown and remote school period have really rocked many people in Victoria. We are observing some students struggle with the return. The thrust back into routine and social groups has been a challenge for some.

There have been a few concerns brought to our attention with regard to social media use. We are treating this as a learning experience on their journey to moral and ethical use of technology. How are people to learn if they do not make mistake along the way? The main thing we want students to take away from these experiences, though, is to go to an adult if there is a problem. Just because kids are seen to be the experts with technology, this does not mean they are emotionally mature enough to handle it. A massive problem exists where kids are trusted with technology and they are not provided the scaffolding behind it.

Let's take the Kid Messenger app for instance. Its age rating is 4+ because there are mechanisms built in to include parents. If your child is using iMessage or Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and is participating in group chats, solo chats etc. then they are out of their league. I can say that because all students in the Primary setting fall into this category. Another one we have heard of recently is Discord, which is rated on the AppStore as 12+ (this equates to 13+ in Australia). Children do not have the capacity to deal with issues that arise within these environments and we have seen this play out recently too. I have heard of parents going down the route of using Kid Messenger, and I applaud this because the app is built to allow the parents to know what is going on along the way.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to call the school if there is ever an issue. Parents and teachers working together is a winning formula, for everyone. Also, we cannot condone students sending messages to family members during school hours, as this leads to misinformation and skewed perceptions. This is very unhealthy and a losing formula. The teachers will always contact parents for anything serious and we are able to problem-solve and be on the same page.

### Graduation

Many of our special events and traditional occasions have been stalled this year. We have been eagerly watching the restrictions ease and are getting a greater understanding of what is and isn't possible in regards to end of year events. The 4/5/6 teachers have been consulting with the Year 6 students to work out how they would like Graduation Day to look. Understandably, this will look very different from previous years due to COVID restrictions. St James will combine the Graduation ceremony with a Whole School Mass on the 9th December. No parents are allowed on site, but there are plans to have a recording available to families soon after the event. A letter with further details will be sent to Year Six families very soon.

**Andy McDermott**

**Principal**

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## COVID Health and Safety

DOSCEL has advised temperature tests on the students are no longer required when they enter the school grounds, however, the following still remains in place.

- If your child is experiencing signs or symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they must not attend school until their symptoms resolve and appropriate medical advice is obtained.
- This includes even mild symptoms of COVID-19.
- The symptoms to watch out for are:
  - Fever
  - Chills or sweats
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Shortness of breath
  - Runny nose
  - Loss of sense of smell
- Upon arrival at school or during the day, if your child becomes unwell, you will be contacted and required to come and collect your child.
- If student who are being tested for COVID-19 have siblings, who attend a school managed and operated by the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (DOSCEL), then the siblings should also remain at home until a negative test result is provided for the student awaiting test results.
- Every student must have their own drink bottle as the bubble taps are switched off.
- Birthdays – we are happy to acknowledge and celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom, however as previously stated, due to COVID, children cannot bring chocolate, lollies etc. to share for their birthday.
- Communication with teaching staff is via email or phone as we are unable to have parents on-site.
- Until further notice, we will bring the students to the gate at 3.20pm to allow more time to distribute students to parents in the pickup lane.

## St James Parish Looking for helpers

For many years, parents of St James have volunteered to clean the church. The Parish is asking if there are any current parents able to go on a roster system to do some light cleaning. If available, please contact Sharon - ionaparish@dcsi.net.au

## Term Four Fees

Term four fees are due and payable by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, unless you have set up a payment plan. If you are experiencing difficulty, please contact Michelle.

## Lamont Virtual Book Fair – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

As we are unable to hold our annual Book Fair in person this year, St James will be holding a virtual Book Fair. Bringing the joy of reading and the excitement of the Book Fair into the comfort of your home. Please see flyer attached.

## 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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## Classroom News

### Foundation/One

- I have enjoyed planning my own narrative. -Amelia
- I like learning about our focus word 'king' and learning that the letters 'ng' work together to make one sound. -Harvey
- I like learning about Indigenous people and quiet reading -Raiden
- I liked planning our narratives by using pictures. -Eve
- I liked learning about NAIDOC week and doing writing, spelling and morning activities. -Holly
- I have enjoyed planning my narrative about a king, crocodile and a bunny. -Jack
- I liked colouring in the mandala for Religion. -Maggie
- I have liked learning about narratives and planning my own narrative. -Lachlan
- I have liked making up our own narratives. -Sophie
- I liked planning my narrative with pictures and learning about sharing objects to make equal groups. -Bailee
- I liked doing mandalas for our morning activities. -Jaxon
- I have enjoyed planning my own narrative about superman, a king and a dragon. -Travis

### Year Two/Three GB

We are combining our writing and integrated focuses in class. We are working on writing information reports. We are researching information about animals of our choice. Some animals that people have chosen include: elephants, platypus, dingoes, tigers, turtles and the clownfish. - Riley

This week we have started working on time. There is o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. We are showing the time using both analogue and digital clocks. We use an interactive clock on the TV to try and show the time as a warm up. Indigo and Chloe L.

In Art, we have been painting our beach people. We moulded the beach people out of clay. We had to leave them to dry between making them and painting them. - Imelda

On Wednesday, it was Remembrance Day. We watched a live broadcast of the ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. The Governor of Victoria came and placed a wreath at the war shrine. A choir sang a song called Goin' Home. At 11.00am we stood for the minute's silence and watched the flags that were half way. After the minutes silence they played a tune and we raised our flag to the top of the flagpole. They also sang Advance Australia Fair. - Hugo

### Year 2/3JK

- Zali - I really liked painting what we think Jesus looked like
- Gracie/ Ben - I have been liking doing fractions in maths with the arrays
- Tate - We started a new biology unit for integrated. We have picked an animal and are learning about it.
- Jasmine - I really enjoyed making the sculptures in Art and painting them.
- Jackson - I really enjoyed maths and learning my times tables.

### Year 4/5/6

This year the Remembrance Day ceremony was different from other years. We watched the Remembrance Day ceremony on a live stream. We could not gather together at the Nar Nar Goon cenotaph because of COVID and social distancing. Through this we remembered the people who served in war, many of which died fighting for our freedom. During the minute of silence we remembered the people who served Australia. The flag went down to half mast during the minute of silence. It was very interesting to see inside the Shrine of Remembrance. The Governor of Victoria laid a wreath inside the Shrine near the Shrine guard. This was a really good experience compared to what we would normally do on Remembrance Day.

Written by Adara, Lily H and Brianna.

### Sacraments

Welcome back everyone, it has been lovely to see everyone's faces after such a long time away.

I wanted to give you all an update on the Sacraments. We have decided to postpone them until next year when we can celebrate them as a family, school and parish community. Currently we would be only allowed to have very few parishioners in attendance. This is not in the spirit of the Sacraments, where we gather as a group of followers and share the celebration of new members to our Church community.

I am looking forward to next year when we can celebrate them as a community.

Julie Kennedy  
REL

Dear Parents,

It is the time of year where we think about the Festive Season and how quickly it comes around for us all and it is especially important as many families are struggling this year in particular....

**We are asking for contributions for our  
St Vincent De Paul  
Christmas Festive Food Hampers and Presents**



***We are asking for Donations of NON-PERISHABLE  
food items- to be sent in to school any time from  
now until***

***Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.***

***Festive Food-plum pudding, chips, bon-bons***

***Small gift wrapped with a note indicating the age and  
gender***

***St James families are traditionally very generous  
and we invite you to contribute in this very tangible  
way to the needy in our society.***

***Many, many thanks in advance for your donation.***

## Awards

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November

#### Foundation/OneKH

Jack – great job working independently to retell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Amelia – working hard to complete her work independently and during the allocated times

#### Foundation/OneLK

Lachlan – always trying his best and his enthusiasm to learn

Bailee – for her enthusiasm to share in class discussions

#### Year 2/3GB

Indigo – being a respectful class member and helping those in need

Eddie – a wonderful effort in reaching human calculator status on level 2 Mathematics Live

#### Year 2/3JK

Zali – amazing job with her handwriting

Indi-Rose – being super quick with 11 times tables

#### Year 4/5/6

Amy – persisting to get her work done

Peyton – consistent excellent work

Owen – persisting on his tasks

Grace – persisting on all tasks

## 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 4 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.

## Important Dates to Remember

<b>16.11.2020</b> St Vinnies Christmas Appeal Commences	<b>18.11.2020-25.11.2020</b> Lamont Virtual Book Fair	<b>24.11.2020</b> Advisory Committee AGM	<b>25.11.2020</b> Foundation Transition Session 1 11.30 – 12.30	<b>1.12.2020</b> PSG Meetings
<b>2.12.2020</b> Foundation Transition Session 2 11.30 – 12.30	<b>9.12.2020</b> Graduation Day Whole School Mass	<b>11.12.2020</b> Whole School Orientation Session	<b>14.12.2020</b> St Vinnies Appeal Finishes	<b>16.12.2020</b> Students Last Day

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

## Uniform Labelling

Is your child wearing their own uniform?

Please ensure that all clothing items are labelled clearly. Children quite often put on a jumper belonging to someone else.

Show your child where you have named their clothing, so they know to look for their name before putting an item of clothing on or in their bag to take home.

Remember that the washing machine removes names after time so check occasionally to make sure the name is visible. We have lots of jumpers returned to the office with no name and are unable to find the owners.

If your child comes home with someone else's clothing item, please return it to the school the next day.



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