



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter
27th November 2020 Issue 20

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

You will have seen the advice yesterday indicating that I will not be Principal of St James in 2021. No doubt this came as a surprise to many of you. This has been a difficult decision for me, as my time at St James has been both challenging and fulfilling. It is a period in my career which I will always cherish.

Things have changed dramatically in the seven years that I have been principal. In my first few weeks, back in 2014, I had to herd a cow off the school grounds and steer it back to the paddock. That's when I knew I had taken charge of a school that had that country charm!

I will be taking up the position of Religious Education Leader at St Thomas the Apostle School, Cranbourne East. This is a very large catholic primary school with a diverse community. After 7 years as leader of St James, I am looking to broaden my skills and experience. Religious education is a particular passion of mine and I am looking forward to utilising my strengths in a new setting.

I will be forever grateful for the support and strong sense of community I have been afforded at St James. Even in this time of COVID, I look forward to the opportunity to say my farewells in any way I can.

The Diocese of Sale has commenced the process of finding and appointing a new principal. I pray this process will be successful and St James will continue to thrive as the great school that it is known for being.

Whole School Mass

We have plans for celebrating the End-of-Year Mass on the 9th December at 2:15pm. With the most current COVID regulations, we are able to have the 456 class and teachers in the Church. We are attempting to stream the Mass, so that the rest of the classes can participate from their classrooms. If we are successful, we may even be able to stream it to the Internet so that families can hop online and watch it too. We are not promising professional camera work, so please do not have that sort of expectation placed on us!

There is more to follow with regard to what we can do with the Year 6 Graduation.

Assemblies

With certain COVID restrictions being eased, we are excited to announce that assemblies can resume. Unfortunately, parents are still not able to attend, but the student leaders are going to enjoy the opportunity to lead assemblies finally, albeit for a few occasions. The rest of the students will finally get an opportunity to meet together as a whole school, something of which, we have missed greatly.

Check out the COVID updates further into the newsletter for further information regarding easing of restrictions.

Advisory Committee AGM

The Advisory Committee held their AGM on Tuesday night via video conferencing. We welcome a new member to the committee, Alanna Pomeroy. If all goes well with further easing of restrictions, the committee will be able to meet face-to-face next year. Many thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee for their dedication to the school community, especially during this extremely complex year.

Andy McDermott
Principal

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Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812

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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.
- 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.
- Schools can gather for assemblies but with students and staff only at this stage
- Parents can come onsite for scheduled meetings with staff (needs to be booked ahead and be for a significant reason)

Thunderstorm Asthma

BE PREPARED FOR THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA SEASON

[Thunderstorm asthma](#) can be very serious for people with asthma, so it is important to be thunderstorm asthma aware and prepared for the upcoming thunderstorm season. It could save your life or your loved one.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there is a greater risk of an Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma event occurring this year due to a wet spring encouraging grass growth. This is caused by the La' Nina effect, which usually means above-average winter-spring rainfall for Australia.

Thunderstorm asthma events are believed to be triggered by an uncommon combination of high grass [pollen](#) levels and a certain type of thunderstorm, causing pollen grains from grasses to be swept up in the wind and carried long distances. Some pollens can burst open and release tiny particles that are concentrated in the wind just before the thunderstorm. These small particles get deep into the airways and can trigger [asthma symptoms](#), an asthma flare up or attack.

Learn more about thunderstorm asthma [here](#)

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	Alanna Pomeroy

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th February

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

Foundation and Year 1 students have continued learning about Narratives. Students have planned and written their own Narratives. Students have put a lot of thought into their plan, writing and editing their work. In maths students have started learning about Australian Money, specifically coins. Students were asked to reflect on what they have enjoyed the most in their learning over the last couple of weeks.

- I enjoyed doing Maths. I like learning about equal and unequal things and getting into groups - Pippa
- I enjoyed writing my plan for my Narrative story - Jaxon
- I liked learning about Narratives and writing an Orientation. I also liked playing the coin game in Maths because I won - Travis
- I enjoyed Spelling because I get to be with my friends that aren't in my class. This week we are learning about the word shark - Scarlett
- I enjoyed writing. I got to write a story that I made up - Arthur
- I like that we learnt about equal groups and I liked the coin game - Harper
- I enjoyed writing our Narrative because I get to use my head and the information that my head brings up - Georgie.
- I enjoyed Maths. I enjoyed learning about all the coins - Arthur

Year Two/Three GB

In our Integrated unit we have been collecting information on our chosen animals. We have been finding out about their habitat, their diet, their features and their lifecycle. I am researching the peacock. A peacock has about 320 bones. It has sharp claws on their feet. Tigers are known to hunt peacocks. - Chloe K

In maths we have been practicing multiplication tables. We have been learning about time. We got to tell the time by writing both analogue and digital times. We have looked at times to 5 minute intervals. We learnt about 24 hour time. It helps tell the difference between midday and midnight. We have done some work on reading and understanding calendars. - Liam, Jack and Indigo

In Spanish we have been counting as far as we can in Spanish. We have been trying to beat the other classes' scores. We can count up to 89 without a mistake. We have been practicing the names of different family members in Spanish. - Maddy

In Music we have been going out to the blue court to sing. We have been singing Bee, bee, bumble bee, Little Mouse and Apple tree. We have been practicing things in groups. - Allie

In religion we have been learning about the three wise men. We researched frankincense, myrrh and gold. Gold is a precious metal, while myrrh and frankincense is a perfume or scent that comes from types of tree sap. - Milla

Year 2/3JK

Joel and Elizabeth - We have been reading a story about Christmas everyday and writing a recap about it. (Mrs Kennedy is super happy with Joel's writing!

Jordan and Jackson - We like doing fractions and matching the pizza fractions. We also liked making Patrick fractions. We put tape on a hula-hoop to make fifths and it looked like Patrick from SpongeBob.

Holly - I liked making the Gingerbread men in Art out of bags!

Josh - In sport, I really like that we had free choice yesterday. We got to play with 5 different balls. I played footy for most of it and my last choice was the everything balls with the fling net.

Scarlett - We have been learning about information reports and I like searching up my animal and learning new things.

Year 4/5/6

CRAFT CLUB

In Craft Club all the girls in 456 go and do a craft activity at lunchtime on Friday. We always have a good mind set. Lily and Jade always come up with great and fun things for us to do. The reason Lily decided to do craft club was that because over lockdown we didn't get to spend time with each other and it's also a great way to make new friends who you don't normally play or talk to. Craft Club is a great idea and we always enjoy it. Great job, Lily and Jade for helping and it should be passed on to others next year. WE LOVE CRAFT CLUB!

By Grace, Tiahli and Isla

GAMES CLUB

In games club, which is on Tuesday at lunch, we play lots of games. Mr Vermeer runs it so it is always fun. We play games like Outfoxed, Werewolf, twister and Battleships. I like how games club is inclusive.

By Brianna Lawlor

BASKETBALL TRAINING

This term the 4/5/6 boys have been learning and improving basketball skills. We have been learning how to abide by the basketball rules. Layups have been a big part of our learning experience. It has been amazing to see the development of some boys' skills. Match play has also been amazing to watch. I would like to highlight two people, Dino and Joel have improved so much from the start of training to the current day. I am really looking forward to the continued growth of these two. Defending has been the last big thing we have been learning about. It pays off in a game in dying seconds.

By Alexander Tymensen

Returning of all Library Books

It has come to that time of year where we require **ALL** library books to be returned. If you could have a good look around this weekend and return any borrowed book by next Wednesday 2nd December. Once we have scanned all books we will send home a notification if we have any outstanding under your child's name.

We hope you have enjoyed your child bringing home the library books throughout the year, reading together creates a special bond and a long lasting love of books.

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 14th 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 16th November

Foundation/OneKH

Arthur great job explaining why groups are equal or not equal
Harper – great job sharing objects to make equal groups

Year 2/3GB

Milla – a dynamite job with time concepts
Liam – continued improvement in weekly spelling
Tyson – dynamite job working with Mrs Parker
Evie – phenomenal work with time concepts

Year 2/3JK

Holly – excellent work with fractions!
Joel – amazing work with his platypus report
Ruby P – awesome work with her information report writing

Year 4/5/6

Aidy – getting help for his maths
Tiahli – always getting help when needed
Ashlee – consistent bubbly attitude
Tyler – good concentration all day

Monday 23rd November

Foundation/OneKH

Jackson – fantastic job reading and spelling words with SATPIN
Georgie – great job writing a narrative with a clear beginning, middle and end

Year 2/3GB

Allie – demonstrating growth in all areas of her learning
Chloe L – demonstrating growth in all areas of her learning
Chloe K – developing her skills in reading

Year 2/3JK

Matilda – producing a very detailed summary about a class book
Antonio – working hard on completing a detailed summary about class books!
Elizabeth - awesome work with her spelling pre-test and post-test

Year 4/5/6

Jack D – great leadership and motivation
Koby – for being an algebra whizz in maths
Lucy – for being an algebra expert
Clae – better concentration and mindset
Aidy – Spirit of St James Award – for being inclusive in sport/class games by encouraging others to have a go

Students last day for 2020

Children will finish for the year on **Wednesday 16th December**, normal dismissal time.

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 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

1.12.2020 PSG Meetings	2.12.2020 Foundation Transition Session 2 11.30 – 12.30	9.12.2020 Graduation Day Whole School Mass 2.15pm	11.12.2020 Whole School Orientation Session
14.12.2020 St Vinnies Appeal Finishes Reports sent home	16.12.2020 Students Last Day 3.30pm finish	17.12.2020 – 18.12.2020 School Closure Days	25.12.2020 Christmas Day

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



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