



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter
27th November 2020 Issue 20

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Advent

We have a number of names that we go by, depending on the circumstance. Sometimes I'm 'Andy', sometimes 'Mr Mac' and sometimes I'm called 'Andrew Michael McDermott' if I'm in trouble. We have given God many names too. Sometimes we call God, 'Father' or 'Lord Our Guiding Light' or 'Saviour'. Whenever you see the name '**Emmanuel**', it's because we are associating with the God who spent some time with us in the flesh, two thousand years ago.

Emmanuel literally translates to 'God is with us' and it is used most often at Advent and Christmas time, because this is what happened - Jesus was born as a gift to us, to be with us. Catholics believe that He was all human and all divine, which makes Him very relatable and tangible. The prayer below refers often to **Emmanuel**, which is a great nickname for God during this time of Advent.

Advent Prayer - Make Room for Emmanuel

When I become overly-engaged in life's activities and allow them to crowd out space for essential prayer and reflection,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the pain of a world weary with war and violence threatens my hope and diminishes my belief in the goodness of humanity,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When I am asked to forgive another's failings or to let go of old hurts that cling stubbornly to my aggrieved self,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When I give undue attention to myself, or when excessive preoccupation with my own schedule tempts me to ignore the needs of others,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When jealousy or resentment of another's good fortune takes away from my gratitude for all I have been given,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the heartache and distress of those dear to me saddens my spirit and suffocates my desire to bring joy to others,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When peace seems far away from my deeper self, crushing distress pays daily visits to my body, mind, or spirit,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the day is done and I look over the hours that have passed before I rest my head on the pillow of sleep,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When I join friends and family to celebrate the gift of your birth in human form and gather to remember your boundless love,
help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

All Emmanuel, God-with-us, you stand at the door of my heart and await my welcome. Help me to be aware of your presence each day in the people who enter my life. I desire to open my heart, to make room for you in any part of self that tends to keep you out. Show me those places where you still need a welcome. Spur on my courage to open the door and invite you in. I want to make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.



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Principal's Report Continued

Gratitude

Many thanks for the P&F for the awesome gesture of the 'guitar memento'. At Mass on Wednesday, the P&F organised for a gift to be handed to me at the end of the celebration. It was a Spanish guitar with the St James Prayer inscribed on the face of the instrument. It was such a thoughtful gift. It is very difficult to properly say goodbye at this time and I am very grateful for this gesture and will cherish it for years to come.

Safer Internet Day Webinars

Did you know? 1 in 5 young people reported being socially excluded, threatened or abused online.

I encourage all of our parents and in our school community to join the Safer Internet Day [webinar](#), eSafety's parents guide to cyberbullying and online drama. The webinars help parents and carers support young people to have safe and respectful online relationships. Places are limited, so make sure they don't miss out! Safer Internet Day happens on the **9th February 2021** so it's worth getting organised for it now.

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
- 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.
- 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.
- Candy canes and other treats are unable to be exchanged due to the 'no sharing of food rule'. Christmas cards can be exchanged amongst students
- Parents have asked about whether they are able to pass on a gift at the end of the year to staff, it is fine to do so if you desire.
- 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)

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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Congratulations Grade Six

On Tuesday evening the Grade 6 students and their guests participated in a Graduation Ceremony. It was a very special occasion that began with the traditional Candle Reflection led by Connor and Lily. Peyton and Jack delivered a fantastic speech about the time spent by our Grade 6 students in their journey at St James; there was a great mixture of key events and funny anecdotes.

Some special awards were given on the night. William received the Father Joe Flynn award that was sponsored by St Francis Xavier College. Tayla was awarded CWL Encouragement award that was provided by the Catholic Women's League. Jack was the recipient of the Rotary Citizenship sponsored by Bunyip Garfield Rotary Club. Congratulations to these students in their hard work and dedication leading up to receiving these awards.

The Graduation Ceremony concluded with the students receiving their certificates, a graduation bear provided by our Parents and Friends, a CWL bookmark, a memento of the Footprints prayer and a special photographic memory book of the graduate's time spent at St James.

Thanks to all of those people who worked diligently to prepare and lead this important event in the life of our school.



Students last day for 2020

Children will finish for the year on **Wednesday 16th December**, normal dismissal time. Normally students would celebrate the last day with a class party, unfortunately, due to current restrictions we are unable to do this. Wednesday lunch orders will be available from the Nar Nar Goon Takeaway shop. P & F will be providing Zooper Doopers for each student on this day.

First Day of school for 2021

All students will commence their 2021 school year on **Thursday 28th January**. Staff will return on Wednesday 27th January for staff planning. The school office will open from 8.30am on Wednesday 27th January.

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Classroom News

Foundation/One

Foundation and Year 1 students have continued writing Narratives. This week their prompt was 'oh no! Rudolph is missing!'. Students created a plan, which they then referred to when writing their Narratives. Students were very creative with their ideas as to why Rudolph went missing. In Maths, we continued to learn about Australian Money and this week we started learning about Fractions. Students were asked what they have enjoyed learning about the most in the last couple of weeks

- I enjoyed writing our own stories. I like to use my own ideas - Travis.
- I liked doing Narratives and Christmas activities. I enjoyed writing about Rudolph - Holly.
- I enjoyed Maths because I liked halving things like the pizzas - Eve
- I like writing about Rudolph because I like celebrating Christmas and I like Rudolph - Harvey
- I really liked writing. I enjoy writing my own stories - Lachlan
- I liked writing and I really like Rudolph because he is the reindeer with the red nose and he gets to guide the sleigh. I like Christmas too - Harper.
- I liked playing games in Maths. I liked the game with half, whole and quarter - Arthur.

Leila and Katherine

Year Two/Three GB

Year 2/3 GB reflected on their most memorable moment of the year.

- My most memorable part of the year was coming back and working together in the classroom and seeing my friends after remote learning - Indigo
- My memorable moment was the Teddy Bear picnic. We got to bring our teddies and have hot chips. - Amayah
- I remember when I was at school during remote learning. There were not many people here. - Hugo
- My favourite memory was making the paper gingerbread men in Art. - Imelda
- My best memory was when we came back from online learning and I could see my friends. - Chloe L.
- In remote learning it was harder to do the work but when we came back I could get some more help to do it. - Evie
- In remote learning it was a bit hard to focus and get the work done because you didn't have the teachers to give the help you needed. But at school I got the help I needed. - Chloe K
- I really liked creating our animal research posters because I got to find out lots more facts about the Clownfish. - Allie
- I liked when we dressed as a character in our favourite book for Book Week and then we got to watch Charlie and the Chocolate because we had already read the book. - Maddy
- My favourite thing was putting the Christmas tree up - Milla
- My most memorable part was when we came back from remote learning and getting to see my friends and my teacher. - Xanthe
- On book week we got to watch the Movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory because we read the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We set the chairs up in front of the TV and had popcorn. - Callum
- I liked playing football with my friends at lunchtime. - Kobi
- I liked when the 4/5/6's went to camp and we got to do their jobs for 3 days. - Kaleb
- I like when we are outside with our friends at recess and lunch. We get our energy out and do fun things. - Liam
- My favourite thing was when we came back from remote learning and got to see our friends - Eddie
- During remote learning we sometimes had a day where we finished work early and got to watch a movie. - Jack
- I like playing 2 square, 4 square and footy with my friends. - Tom
- The best memory I have in my head was when we started our research on our animal as part of the Integrated unit. I liked creating the poster with all the facts. - Riley

Year 2/3JK

- Scarlett - We have been working on our animal projects and searching up about our animals and finding facts about them.
- Zali - I like counting money, because when you go to the shops you know how much you need to pay the shopkeeper
- Xavier - I like integrated with the animals because you get to teach people about the animal you are learning and learn about it too
- Grace - I like religion because we made a comic about the birth of Jesus
- Antonio - In maths I like learning about multiplication and using patterns to solve different multiplications.
- Indi-Rose - In writing I like how we have been writing about Christmas stories that Mrs Kennedy read us
- Gracie - I liked making calendars for 2021 in maths. We used oil pastels and Mrs Kennedy laminated. They look awesome.
- Jasmine - At school we have been starting to get into the Christmas spirit by hanging baubles, decorating the tree and making Christmas decorations. We all enjoyed making it.
- Matilda - I liked making clocks to help us with our time.
- Rubie - I like how we are making Christmas decorations that we will be able to take home and hang on our trees.

Year 4/5/6 - Speech from Graduating Year Sixes delivered at Awards Night

Prep (Peyton)

In foundation, we were shown that school isn't really as happy as it's shown in Peppa Pig, but we did enjoy ourselves. Back in foundation, our teacher was Miss Daniel. I remember that back in prep we were doing prayer and we used to have a Mary statue we would pass around as we said our prayers, I can remember that when it was Connor's turn to say his prayers, he got the statue, had a sniff, then passed it on.

When we were back in prep, Tarrant gave Tate a dare to throw a basketball into a locker, and when he tried, he bounced it off the floor and it went straight through the window. But there was a positive side, Tate did score us an extra 30 minutes for recess!

Back in foundation, see if you can guess our favourite song... I'd bet you didn't guess this... THE GUMMY BEAR SONG! We'd dance to this as a reward, but now I wouldn't dance to it for one hundred dollars! But want to know how we earn "rewards" like this? It is a system called 'Class Dojo'. In Class Dojo, if you did some good work, you would get a point, but, if you did something wrong, points could get taken away. And at the end of the week, if we had enough points, we would get to have a reward like a game, or; the Gummy Bear Song. Now we are going to move on to grade 1.

Year 1 (Jack)

By this time, we already had one year of experience. Back in year one, our teacher was Mrs Hance. Mrs Hance would always make up these stories about a dragon named Pete. We would love listening to the different stories about Pete the dragon. In that same year, we did a bush dance for the first time and it was called the 'Billy Tea Bush Dance'.

Year 2 (Peyton)

In year two, our teacher was Mr B. We were doing a project about aboriginal culture and the first fleet. This was also our first year to use iPads! We used to be addicted to Mathletics, but that sort of went with age.

In year two, we had our first interschool sports match. I was doing Newcombe.

Year 3 (Jack)

In year three we had Mr B as our teacher again. The school was getting renovated that year, a good thing for everyone else, but not for us. We had to work in the hall and it got quite stuffy at times, especially in summer. But year three wasn't *all* bad. On one of the days, we got to become SRCs for a day, because the grade sixes were off on camp and, by that I mean, we got to do all of their jobs.

Year 4 (Peyton)

In year four, Mr Vermeer and Mr B were our teachers. We went to Sovereign Hill for our first camp and went panning for gold. Sovereign Hill is like an old-fashioned town. It is a tourist attraction and it was set in one of the places where the gold rush took place. At Sovereign Hill, you can make your own candles, pan for gold, make a golden bar and many more things.

So this doesn't become an unpaid Sovereign Hill commercial, we are going to stop talking about what you can do there and start talking about the things we did. Down at Sovereign Hill we became part of the attraction. We were enrolled into the 'Wesleyan School' for two days. We were graded by height and we had to memorise the 16 times tables. Poor Jack L was a little preppie. We had to write in copperplate, which is an old font. Sovereign Hill went for three short days.

A bit after we got home, the renovations to the school were finished. Also, this has nothing to do with the renovations, Connor came to school as Captain Underpants and it was hilarious.

Year 5 (Jack)

Last year, we were in year five. Mrs Powderham and Mr Vermeer were our teachers. During this year, we spent a few days at home because of the Bunyip bushfire. But after the bushfire, we headed down to Canberra.

Down at Canberra, the capital city of Australia, there are many things that you can do, which is why it is the longest camp, lasting five days, it has the longest drive too. The drive was 10 hours long! Some things we did down at Canberra were: we went to the Australian Institute of Sport (the AIS), we went to Questacon, we went to Parliament House, we went to the Australian War Memorial, but that was when a dust storm started, we would have gone to Telstra Tower afterwards, but there was no point because you couldn't see anything, so instead we went to Australian embassies, like China and the USA.

Back home, some of us also became altar-servers. At the end of the year, when we were cleaning up, we did an 'intense cleaning montage' where Alex put some music on and we were cleaning up.

Year 6 (Peyton)

Because of the virus, this year has been rotten. Our teachers were Mr Perez, Mrs Powderham and Mr Vermeer. Before we went into lockdown, we went to a place called Forest Lodge for our school camp. Down at Forest Lodge it had everything from flying foxes to canoes to a giant swing. When we were canoeing, a few people found a baby bird that couldn't swim, so they put it onto their canoe and swam him to safety. They named him Birbie. At the end of the camp all of the teachers went on the giant swing and Mrs Kennedy almost made all of us deaf with her screaming.

After we got home from camp, we were introduced to the world of remote learning and Covid-19. Back in remote learning, we had to upload all our work on Google Classroom. It made it much harder to do all of our work. Each day we would log on to Google Meet, and one morning, our teachers decided to do a play, it was about a book called 'Chicken Divas'. I think we all are happy to be back at school. During remote learning, some people went to school. Mr Mac and Alex had a contest over who could kick a football into a basketball hoop. Alex won.

Back at school, Tayla and Aidy keep spinning their hat on their hand, and Tayla keeps doing it better.

Thank you to all staff and parents for helping us through the amazing journey called primary school.

Presented by Jack D and Peyton.

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Awards

Monday 30th November

Foundation/OneKH

Felicity – fantastic job writing a narrative about a shark
Betty – becoming more confident when sharing her ideas with the class

Foundation/OneKP

Kobie – for being a wonderful help in the classroom
Sophie – supporting her peers whenever needed

Year 2/3GB

Xanthe – her persistence and achievement in all areas of Mathematics

Hugo – for his efforts to improve his handwriting

Year 2/3JK

Scarlett – staying focussed during daily mindfulness meditation

Tate – producing a very detailed summary about a class book.

Ban – excellent job with his information report on the penguin

Rubie – fantastic work with writing her summary of our class book

Year 4/5/6

Connor – working hard on all his tasks

Jade – lovely presentation of her work

Max – persisting through tough maths

Lily – showing good senior leadership

Monday 7th December

Foundation/OneKH

Darcy – always encouraging his classmates

Harvey – always encouraging his classmates

Foundation/OneKP

Jaxon – for his improved focus during Narrative writing

Year 2/3GB

Jack – showing fantastic knowledge of his researched animal

Amayah – a dynamite job with Mathematics

Year 2/3JK

Joshua – building his confidence in his learning at school

Jordan – his amazing reading

Seb – always working hard in the classroom to do the best in everything

Year 4/5/6

Jack – for fantastic Genius Hour project

Isabelle – for fantastic Genius Hour project

Matilda – for fantastic Genius Hour project

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

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
27.12.2021 School Closure –Staff begin	28.12.2021 Students first day	9.02.2021 Safer Internet Day	15.02.2021 School Photos

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

2021 Term Dates and School Closure Days

Term Dates:

Term 1 27th January – 1st April (students start 28th January)

Term 2 19th April – 25th June

Term 3 12th July – 17th September

Term 4 4th October – 17th December

Closure Days:

Wednesday 27th January – Staff planning 2021

Thursday 1st April – Professional Development Day

Monday 19th April – RE professional learning

Friday 25th June – Professional Development Day

Friday 17th September – Professional Development Day

Monday 1st November – Report writing

Thursday 16th December – Professional Development Day

Friday 17th December – Professional Development Day

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School Bus Management System

In the lead up to the 2021 school year, all travellers wishing to access School Bus Program services, are required to login to the School Bus Management System and submit their travel applications.

The school wishes to stress to parents that safety is our number one priority. If your child is not registered and is still travelling on a bus, then the School Bus Management System and our school records will not have them listed to catch the bus. In the event of an incident or a need to stop the bus, we will not know that firstly your child is on the bus and will not know to contact you.

To login to the School Bus Management System, please go to <https://schoolbus.educationapps.vic.gov.au/>

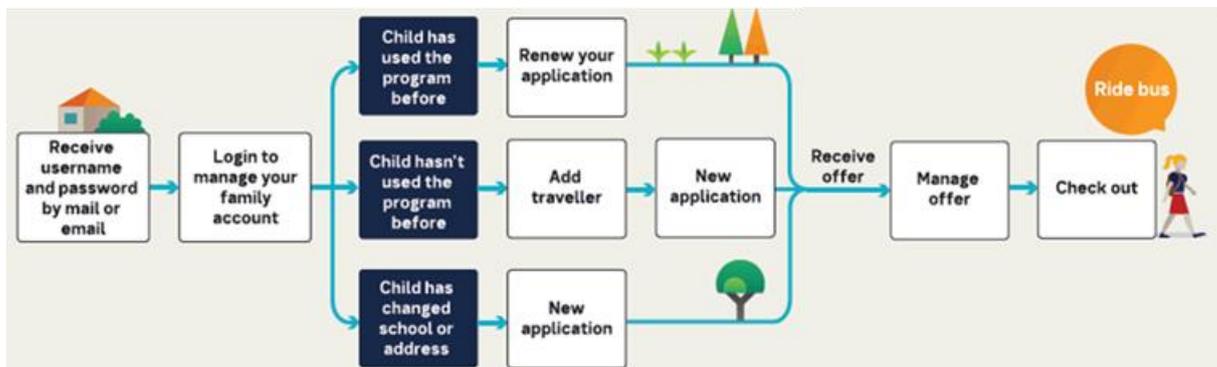
Existing Travellers

These are students who already travel on the school bus and are registered on the School Bus Management System. If your child requires continued travel on the school bus, then you must submit a 2021 travel application.

The chart below will help families already registered on the School Bus Management System to:

- Renew Applications - If your child is already travelling and needs continued school bus access and has not changed school or home address
- Add Travellers and New Application - If you are already registered on the School Bus Management System, but have a child accessing a bus for the first time
- New Application - If your child is already travelling but has changed school or home address.

For your convenience, please see chart below to help with the process.



New Families

All new families seeking access to School Bus Program services for the first time will need to register on the School Bus Management System. Please go to <https://schoolbus.educationapps.vic.gov.au/> Once registered, families will be able to add travellers and submit travel applications online.

For your convenience, please see the chart below to help you with the registration and application process.



When Can You Submit My Child's 2021 Application?

Now. The School Bus Management System is accepting 2021 applications now.

When Will You Receive A Travel Offer?

The School Bus Management System will process all 2021 travel applications at the end of December.

What's Next?

When you receive your child's travel offer, login to the School Bus Management System and manage your child's offer. This completes the process.

Need Assistance?

In the event families need assistance, please contact Public Transport Victoria's Call Centre on 1800 800 007.