



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter
19th February 2021 Issue 2

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

On Wednesday we began our Lenten Journey. Ordinarily this would have begun with Mass in the Church and staff and students receiving the sign of ashes on foreheads - a symbol of God's love and sacrifice for us. This year was a little different and families were asked to share in prayer time together at home. In this time leading up to Easter, we are called to reflect on our own relationship with God and on our thoughts and actions.

Lent is also a time where we look beyond ourselves to how we can **be more** for others – this is our call to Catholic Social Justice. This is central to the work of Caritas Australia and this year their theme is “**BE MORE**”, inspired by the work and words of Bishop Oscar Romero. Bishop Romero was speaking about being more for each other, rather than having more materialistic possessions. In **being more** for each other we are people of mercy, grace and reconciliation who share the good news of the Gospel. You can find out more about the work of Caritas Australia, both in Australia and overseas at caritas.org.au.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-

Yesterday we held a **LOCK IN drill**. An emergency management response of this nature is required when potential threats are identified when students and staff are outside. This could include cows breaking through the fence, onset of unexpected severe weather or a stranger on the grounds. Students and staff responded calmly and quickly during lunchtime. We will continue to practice such drills each term and inform you of these so that you can discuss these with your child/ren if needed or seek clarification from myself.

MICHAEL GROSE-

Michael Grose is an Australia parenting expert. We are fortunate to subscribe to his publications and we will share these with you regularly via the newsletter. You will also receive invitations to various webinars throughout the year. Parents can also subscribe to his free blog- <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog>

This week Michael's article focuses on the new school year and ways in which parents can support their children to be the best learners they can be and foster the curiosity and passion to find all opportunities to learn.

EXCURSIONS

Staff are in the process of planning 2021 excursions. Excursions are a wonderful way to engage parents in learning experiences with our students. For parents to attend excursions, they must have a current **Working with Children Card with St James listed as an organisation**. If you do not have a current WWCC and are interested in the possibility of supporting an excursion, please ensure you begin the application process.

The number of parents we can take does vary and is subject to the specific requirements of the excursion. Parents will be notified of these.

Take care,

Bec Kollaris

Principal

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
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Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
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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
- 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.
- Communication with teaching staff is via email or phone.
- All extra cleaning and hand hygiene that was in place last year, is still being adhered to.
- Schools can gather for assemblies but with students and staff only at this stage
- Parents can come onsite for scheduled meetings with staff. Parents need to sign in and wear a mask.(needs to be booked ahead and be for a significant reason)
- Parents wishing to come into the grounds to drop off must wear a mask and scan the QR code on the way in. Please do not enter the classrooms. Social distancing will apply.

REL News

This year Caritas through Project Compassion will be using the slogan from Oscar Romero 'Be More', from his famous quote, "Aspire not to have more but to be more." Project Compassion boxes will be sent out on Monday and I ask that students raise money for this worthy cause. This year I would like students to ask for any spare change (silver coins) that family may have. Boxes will be due back on the 29th of March, the last week of Term.

I know it is hard to get to Mass as families are busy however, both of these resources may fit your families needs. If you would like to participate in virtual Mass, I have attached 2 links below.

- - [Father Rob Galea](#) (We regularly sing Fr Rob songs in School Masses)
- - [Father Mike Schmitz](#) (This is an American Priest who is very passionate about his work)

Julie Veldman

Religious Education Leader

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:

Rebecca Kollaris 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 March

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

Next Meeting: Friday 26th February 2pm

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
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Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher interviews will be held at 3.40pm – 6.00pm on Tuesday 23rd February and Wednesday 24th February 2021.

You can now book interviews at times that suit your family best.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter code ymz5b then follow the three simple steps.

Bookings close 4.00pm Monday 22nd February 2021.

Class 3/4GB interviews will be held on Tuesday 2nd March (9.30am – 3.30pm) and Wednesday 3rd March (3.40pm – 5.50pm) login in details will be sent to relevant parents.

School Photographs for 2021

Due to the Circuit Breaker Lockdown our school photos now have to be rescheduled, we will advise when we have locked in a date. All orders that have already been submitted will carry over to the new date.

Update your details Operoo

Welcome to 2021. We all lead very busy lives and can often forget to update details.

If you have moved, changed home or mobile numbers, or have a new email address please update these in Operoo, this will send us a message that your details have changed and we are then able to update our data base.

During the year if permissions are required for excursions or camps, Operoo is where this will be, as parents/guardians you will log in and accept or decline.

office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Application forms available at the office.

E-Safety

When it comes to online safety, the [eSafety Commissioner website](#) is here to help support parents and carers and ensure that together, we keep children safer online.

More advice and information is available at [eSafety parents](#).

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

23rd February Parent Teacher Meetings	24th February Parent Teacher Meetings	8th March Labour Day Public Holiday	10th March Foundations begin fulltime
16th March Advisory Committee Meeting	24th – 26th March Life Ed	31st March Students Last day for Term	1st April School Closure

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 27 th January – 1 st April (students start 28 th January) Term 2 19 th April – 25 th June Term 3 12 th July – 17 th September Term 4 4 th October – 17 th December	Closure Days: Thursday 1 st April – Professional Development Day Monday 19 th April – RE professional learning Friday 25 th June – Professional Development Day Friday 17 th September – Professional Development Day Monday 1 st November – Report writing Thursday 16 th December – Professional Development Day Friday 17 th December – Professional Development Day
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Classroom News

Foundation/One/Two

We have asked some of our foundation about their favourite thing they have done so far at school.

Lydia - I love being with my friends

Jasmine - I like playing with Ziera

Owen - I like to play footy with Dylan and Ollie

River - I like playing with Jack D

Isla - I like going to the library

Jack D - I like doing fun school work

Ollie - I like doing handwriting

Max - I like having fun and doing handwriting

Laurel - I like playing gymnastics with Lydia

Zoe - I like playing on the playground

Year Three/Four GB

In writing, we have been learning about narratives. In a narrative there is an orientation, complication, series of events and a resolution. We have been coming up with different characters, settings and problems that we might use for our narrative writing. - Indigo

For our Integrated topic, we have been learning about rules, laws, rights and responsibilities. During the short lockdown we made a presentation, either a video, poster or slideshow and got to present it to the class. We had to come up with rules that we would have at school if we were in charge of the school. - Callum

In Maths, we have been learning about greater than, less than and equal too. We have been trying to figure out which symbol fits in to make the number sentence make sense. You have to read the numbers and symbols from left to right. - Scarlett

In sport, we have been completing the beep test. So far most of us have improved each time. - Maddy

Year Three/Four LB

Well, we have made it to Week 4! The students have resumed school very well and are getting up to date with Mathletics tasks and home reading which is great to see - many thanks!

I enjoyed learning about Rules and Laws because if you didn't have rules everyone would be fighting and taking things. That's why rules are here, to be Respectful, Responsible and Safe - **Seb**

I enjoyed learning about Place Value because I learnt that technology wouldn't be around if Place Value and numbers weren't created - **Jackson**

We have been practicing our Lock In and Lock Down procedures so that when strangers come into our school we feel safe - **Gracie**

I have enjoyed learning in writing about character, settings and problems. We created posters with stickynotes brainstorming different characters, setting and problems to write a narrative piece - **Chloe K**

I am enjoying Place Value because it gets harder and harder every Mathletics task - **Joshua L**

I liked how we did Integrated during home learning with making posters, videos and news articles. I made a poster about 'If I was the principal while Mrs Kollaris was away' - **Ruby P**



February 13th – 26th

Tyson 3/4GB

Indigo 3/4GB

Azaan 5/6VP