



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter

4th June 2021 Issue 10

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

As we enter our second week in circuit breaker lockdown, I wish to assure you that staff are working to keep our students as connected as possible during this challenging time. Next week students will continue to participate in their morning Google meet as a whole class. They will then participate in a small group Google meet with an explicit teaching focus prior to completing the related activity. At both meets, students are encouraged to ask questions and clarify expectations.

Remote Schooling can be tricky for us as parents and understanding what is expected can be confusing (I'm pretty sure I've been scammed by my own Master 12 on more than one occasion). To support you at home I would appreciate feedback in terms of how remote schooling is for you so that we can make adjustments as needed for families.

It is important that we try to maintain routines as much as possible so that students know what to expect each day. Predictability, particularly during remote schooling is key to students feeling settled and having an element of control in their day. Teachers will send home outlines for students to follow, these will be slightly different depending on the level of independence. Should you at any time have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or school.

Safety while online

- o Cameras on for meets
- o Staff and student backgrounds blurred so as to maintain privacy of own home
- o Students not to be in isolation eg; bedroom
- o Staff and students dressed appropriately
- o No recording of meets
- o No 1:1 meetings with students are permitted. 2 staff members must be present to assist an individual student

Wellbeing on line

Please be mindful of the amount of time students are spending on line inclusive of Google meets, online learning platforms (RAZ, Mathletics) and just some down time. We encourage students to take regular breaks, go for a walk and remember to blink to refresh eye health.

It's not goodbye... it's a "see you later!"

After 30 years of dedication to St James, Ange Payrolli has resigned to explore other passions. Ange was due to finish at St James and begin other adventures earlier this term, but in true 'the kids come first' style Ange is known and loved for, she decided to finish term 2 with us. Unfortunately with this new lockdown, our original plans to celebrate all that Ange has contributed to our school have been put on hold. Many of you have fond memories of Ange as your own educator and I know you will be sad to see her leave. I am sure you join myself, the staff and the students in thanking Ange for all she has done for our community and celebrate the many hats she has worn. Ange's last official day at St James will be Thursday June 24.

A warm welcome to Brooke Jarred who begins with us on Monday as an Education Support Officer.

I appreciate that this is once again a challenging and uncertain time for our community and I thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate Remote Schooling together. If there is anyway we can further support you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We hope to be back together soon, we miss our students and our families! Take care everyone, stay safe and look out for each other,

Bec Kollaris

Principal

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
Nar Nar Goon VIC 3812

Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

*Building Independent and
Responsible Learners*



2022 Enrolments Foundation to Year Six - Spread the Word

We are now taking enrolments for 2022, officially, this closes at the end of June.

If you have, family or friends who may be considering St James next year please get them to contact the school as soon as possible to avoid a potential wait list.

Enrolment forms can be collected from the office, please contact the office, office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au or phone 5942 5404 if you would like them sent home. We also offer School Tours by appointment.

A Message of Thanks

The time has come:

30 years ago I walked into St James seeking emergency teaching. John Kavanagh offered me the role of Phys Ed teacher. I bought myself a bag of balls that I kept at home so that I would have some equipment to use. Hasn't the school changed!

For many years, I had the honour of watching the kids grow in their sporting endeavours. I have fond memories of our Interschool sports. Our teams ranged from grade two, while other schools were older. But every player knew they were needed and they would confidently have a crack with the encouragement of the huge crowd of parents and supporters. Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Cross Country, Cricket, Triathlons, Bike Ed: All magnificent opportunities to watch the children strive, achieve, build good sporting attitudes and even win sometimes.

I have had the opportunity to be a specialist teacher in Art. One of our whole school projects converted the art room into Hogwarts - complete with the Hogwarts Express. That was one of our wins at the Pakenham Show. Another great memory was our Finding Nemo room. Complete with trenches, seagulls and of course Dory.

International Cuisine, Music, Spanish and Religious Education are other areas that I provided specialist classes for. I often released teachers to allow them to complete other roles, but I was only ever a full time classroom teacher for one term.

Special Education was my background and was always a keen interest for me. I love watching the little battler discover that he/she can achieve. I had the opportunity to work with children in various Programs such as Reading Recovery and Emu.

Playgroup connected local preschoolers to the school. Many children, parents, grandparents, friends and parishioners could enjoy simple togetherness, fun, games and stories. It was a privilege to be part of this group and I am thankful that I was given this opportunity. A huge thanks to the playgroup families and friends, grandparents, life members, hall of fame members and the local community groups that always welcomed us.

The St James children, staff and families that I have shared my time with over the years, will always remain very special to me. My own children and nephews, and many of my life long friends are part of the St James story. I have taught here for a couple of generations, and now, the time has come.

I take my hat off to the dedicated staff at St James and I know that I am leaving St James in very capable hands. I thank the families, both past and present. And I thank everyone for the privilege of being here at St James. It is with mixed emotions that I tender my resignation. I am not sure what is next for me yet, but I know that St James will always be a valued part of my life.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Payroli

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

School Advisory Committee

Committee members for 2021 are:

Rebecca Kollaris	Fr Peter Kooloos
Rob Vermeer	Gehan Dedigama
Ryan Lawlor	Tory Parker
Justine Langley	Liz Cunningham
Steph Katta	Alanna Pomeroy

Next Meeting: ~~Tuesday 8th June~~ to be rescheduled

Parents and Friends

Committee Members for 2021 are:

President	Meagan Rogers
Secretary	Karen Lawlor
Treasurer	Emma Spoard
Monday Lunches	Donna Reilly
Advisory Committee Representative	Justine Langley

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we learn and play. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. The St James Community acknowledges that we are built on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation.

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COVID Health and Safety

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.

- 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 is 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. (needs to be booked ahead and be for a significant reason)

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.

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](#).

Important Dates to Remember (Please note the below events are subject current restrictions easing)

10th June Milo Morning Canceled due to lockdown	14th June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	18th June Whole School Mass
24th June Last Day of Term Milo Morning	25th June School Closure Staff at Professional Learning Day	12th July Term Two Commences

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

2021 Term Dates and School Closure Days

Term Dates: 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: Friday 25 th June – Professional Development Day Friday 17 th September – Professional Development Day Monday 1 st November – Professional Development Day Thursday 16 th December – Professional Development Day Friday 17 th December – Professional Development Day
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Sacrament Dates for 2021

Confirmation - Term 2

Sacrament of Confirmation

- ~~29th May St James NNG~~

To be Rescheduled due to Circuit Breaker Lockdown

Eucharist - Term 3

Commitment Mass – 31st July and 1st August

Workshops

- 10th August St James NNG
- 11th August Columba Bunyip
- 12th August St Johns KWR

Sacrament

21nd August St James NNG

22nd August St Johns KWR & Columba Bunyip

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Building Independent and Responsible Learners



Anxiety requires understanding

The recent rise in childhood and adolescent anxiety and its acceleration during COVID-19 has worried parents and teachers. Many ask how they can assist kids when they become anxious about seemingly routine events such as attending school camps and excursions, tackling difficult subjects, or facing the prolonged absence of a favourite teacher.

Typical responses such as ignoring their worries or encouraging them to 'get on with it' are unhelpful. Allowing a child to avoid an activity that makes them anxious is another unhelpful option. Avoidance may help kids feel safe in the short term, but it risks the establishment of a long-term pattern that can be impossible to shift.

Regardless of the source every child and young person needs an adult in their life that understands them when they are anxious. It may make little sense that an activity makes a child anxious, you just need to understand that they are anxious. They need someone to witness their anxiety without dismissing or ignoring their feelings.

Anxious kids frequently look to parents and teachers for reassurance when they feel anxious. This shows in many ways, including kids continually seeking the opinion of others, wanting parents or teachers to make decisions for them, and continually asking for praise. Adults don't have to fix kids' problems, but we do have to understand they are anxious.

The use of 'Ahhhh' statements to validate how an anxious child is feeling, is a practical way to show that you are trying to understand them. It's also a great way to help a child develop a more nuanced emotional vocabulary. Here are some examples:

'Ahhhh, you're feeling anxious about going to school camp . . .'

'Ahhhh, you're having one of those "I might mess it up" thoughts . . .'

Each child's anxiety is unique. The first and most important response from an adult is to show a child that you 'get' that they are anxious. Having someone understand that they are anxious is an enormous relief, particularly if they haven't been taken seriously in the past. Sitting alongside a child who feels anxious is an underestimated act of compassion that makes a huge difference to their immediate emotional state.

Have you ticked the kinder registrations task off your to-do list yet?

Families with children across Cardinia Shire are preparing for kindergarten in 2022 by submitting their registration applications and updating their placement preferences now.

Our online kindergarten portal makes it quick and easy to check and update your placement preferences, contact details and application information.

Final date for changes and new applications for first round offers is 5pm, Wednesday 30 June 2021.

For more, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Farm Safety Creative Competition

Primary school students from across Victoria are invited to unleash their creativity and design educational farm safety materials and messaging based on this year's theme – **Think Farm Safe, Be Farm Safe**. This year's theme centres around encouraging children to take the time to stop and think about the potential injury hazards that exist on farms and to ensure that safety is kept front of mind at all times in the farm environment.

The winning entries will be utilised to form the basis of a farm safety education campaign targeting Victorian parents and carers with important information on farm safety.

How to enter:

Please [download](#) the relevant pack for full instructions and submit your entries by **Friday 5th November 2021**



4 th June	5 th June	6 th June	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June
Felicity-2JV		Kobi-3/4GB	Jack-FKH			