



St James Catholic School, Nar Nar Goon

Newsletter
9th September 2021 Issue 22

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Fr Peter has announced to the community that he will be retiring in January. Fr Peter has been a great support for all of our community over the past 6 years. We will formalise a fitting farewell for Fr Peter, however know that he will not be too far and will always be an integral part of the St James community.

Welcome to the Team! We warmly welcome Sarah Rovatsos and Meg Watts to the St James team. Sarah joins us as a member of the Education Support Team and you will hear Meg's friendly voice in admin.

I hope you all enjoyed the Amazing Race last Friday. Carol and I asked students to tell us their favourite things about St James. The pride in belonging to our community was evident and students also spoke about friendships and supportive staff. They also spoke about the play equipment and the physical environment. However, the strongest theme was around being known, and not just known by name but as a unique individual, respected and held sacredly in the image of God. This is our true calling as a faith filled community.

Tomorrow we delve into the past and share a giggle as we try to "Guess the Teacher" from a collection of baby photos. Details will be emailed in the morning. The game will start at 2:00pm.

Many in our school community continue to face financial impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to supporting families experiencing financial challenges through our School Fee Concession programs, and encourage any parent/carer/guardian experiencing difficulties to contact us regarding fee assistance. Please contact me by telephone or email to explore confidential financial support arrangements or to obtain further information. If you have a concession card, please forward this to me as soon as possible so that we can investigate possible school fee assistance.

We were to have a school closure next Friday – September 17. This has now **been moved to September 29** which is the Friday leading into Cup weekend. We are hoping that restrictions will have been eased enough that this will be able to be an onsite professional learning day for staff focusing on the Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour Support.

Friday September 17 will now be Footy Colours day 'kicking off' with a footy team parade in levels and then some fun activities for children to participate in at home. Families are invited to join a Whole School Liturgy (time to be advised) to conclude our term together.

Today is R U OK day. Although we are not together, we hold each other in our thoughts and prayers. Please do not hesitate to share any of your concerns with your child's teacher during the regular check in phone calls or contact me directly. Keep an eye out on your letter box for a special message to your family from the staff of St James.

Take care everyone,

Bec Kollaris

Principal

Child
Safety
Week

5-12 September, 2021

EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A FAIR CHANCE



Catholic
Diocese
of Sale



Diocese of Sale
Catholic Education Ltd

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

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

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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.

- **Masks are required to be worn by parents at all times when at school.**
- **Parents are unable to come onsite due to current restrictions, communication with teaching staff is via email or phone.**
- **When entering the office foyer for pick up or drop off students, it is a requirement that you QR code check in.**
- 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.
- All extra cleaning and hand hygiene that was in place last year, is still being adhered to.

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. Absences can also be marked in **PAM**.

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](#).

PAM

PAM (Parent Access Module) is our new Parent to School communication Platform. PAM will provide real time access to keep parents updated with their children's progress, important dates and messages. Resources such as student reports, parent notified absences, sick bay notes will all be accessed via PAM.

If you have any issues or need help with PAM please contact the school via office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

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: 14th September

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 Bunurong people.

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

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

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2022 Enrolments Foundation to Year Six - Spread the Word

We are taking enrolments for 2022.

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.

2021 Term Dates and School Closure Days

Term Dates: Term 3 12 th July – 17 th September Term 4 4 th October – 17 th December	Closure Days: Friday 17th September – Professional Development Day Friday 29 th October – 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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Postponement of School Closure Day

Friday 17 September was originally marked as a School Closure. This day will no longer be a school closure day. We have moved this to Friday 29 October, hoping staff will be able to attend the professional development onsite.

Last Day of Term Three

Students last day for term three is Friday 17 September. School concludes at 2.30pm. Term four commences Monday 4 October.

Footy Fun Day – Friday 17 September (last day of term three)

Students are invited to dress in their favourite football colours on Google Meets and the students that are onsite can also wear their footy colours. Staff will organize footy related activities for the students to enjoy.



The Nar Nar Goon/Maryknoll Cricket Club are searching for any and all players/families to come join our local community focused cricket club! Accepting of all ages and abilities in the most COVID safe sport available. Based at the Nar Nar Goon Recreation Reserve only a few minutes outside of Pakenham.

Simply go to PlayCricket.com.au and search for the Nar Nar Goon – Maryknoll Cricket Club for registrations or please contact our Junior Coordinator Siobhain on 0401 742 652 or our President Nick on 0437 365 376 for any questions or guidance.

	10 th September Evie – 3/4GB
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SIMON Learning Management System Parent Access Module (PAM)



We are now well and truly underway with deploying the Parent Access Module (PAM) facilitated by SIMON at St James!



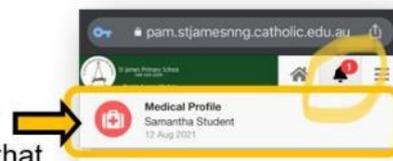
The initiative by the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Ltd. (DOSCEL) has provided all diocesan schools the ability to centralise and streamline parent and student communication. We thank all parents, guardians and carers who have accessed PAM and completed their child's **Medical Information** and in some cases submitted **parent notified absences** throughout this stage of remote learning.

If you have not attempted to login for the first time, we ask that you begin to access PAM via the email that was sent out for a second time on **Tuesday 7th September**. This email (**subject line: ****IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS** - Parent Access Module (PAM)****) contains your **unique username** and **temporary password** that gains access to PAM. Specific directions are also contained within the email. You will also need to verify your email address on your first login.



If you have not received an email please **check your SPAM or JUNK mailbox** and if you require further support please email: office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au so we can assist you.

In the future, we will also advise parents of a final date that **Operoo and the current school app access will cease**. To be able to do this, we need all families to enter their child's **medical information** via PAM to ensure that we have up to date information to be able to do this.



Parents are also advised to **check the contact details** of their child in PAM and *update this information by emailing the school* office@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au. Parent contact information **cannot be changed via PAM** and can only be updated on our administration system.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition into a new Learning Management System.

Lisa Banjac

IT Support

Address: 60 Nar Nar Goon Road,
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Email: principal@stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjamesnng.catholic.edu.au

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Appreciation – A parenting skill for the ages

Do you have a child who craves attention? Does their attention-seeking at times deflate and overwhelm you? If so, you are not alone. Attention-seeking is perhaps the most common misbehaviour in families.

“Look at me, Mum” and its many variations become like a nervous tic driving parents to distraction. It’s good to give kids your undivided attention but there are limits to how much attention you can give. Unfortunately, attention-seeking becomes a pattern of behaviour that’s hard to break.

My first parenting mentor Prof. Maurice Balson, author of *Becoming Better Parents*, believed that children who constantly seek attention are generally discouraged. “I am not good enough” is their belief.

The antidote to discouragement according to Balson, was to increase the amount of encouragement that a child or young person received. Encouragement, literally meaning ‘to give heart or courage’ focuses on the processes of improvement, effort, enjoyment and contribution.

The latter, contribution, is the most potent of these processes. Kids will usually belong to their families in two ways. They are either contributing members, or are known for their poor behaviour. For kids known for poor behaviour, their usual way of operating shows a mindset of “If I’m not appreciated, at least they’ll know I’m around”.

Attention or appreciation? There’s no contest. Appreciation is the genuine deal when it comes to helping kids feel good about themselves.

Why appreciation works

Appreciation is highly motivating. Even adolescents will generally respond to a parent’s appreciative comments, although their faces won’t always show it.

Appreciation has an old-brain connection. The job of our old brain or survival brain, is to keep us safe. Our safety can only be guaranteed if we are a part of a group, so parent appreciation helps kids feel secure, preventing them from resorting to negative attention-seeking behaviour to feel part of the group.

Appreciation is approval on steroids

Approval says I like what you do. Appreciation means much more. It shows how behaviour impacts on another person on an emotional level, which has a stronger impact.

Showing appreciation is a wonderful way to shape a child’s behaviour in positive ways. “Thanks so much for cleaning your toys away without asking. It makes my life so much easier.” This type of comment will usually generate a dopamine (feel-good chemical) response from a child, which means they are likely to repeat the behaviour to replicate the feeling.

How appreciation works

There are four rules to be mindful of, when you show appreciation:

It must have meaning

Appreciation must be real and related to a specific behaviour for it to be effective.

It should let child know the emotional impact of their behaviour

Either with words (“It makes me feel happy”) or through non-verbals (a smile, a hug or high-five) your child should see that their behaviour has had a positive impact on you.

It should be genuine

You can’t fake sincerity with a child or young person as they are generally adept mood detectives.

It’s best if it has small differences

Showing appreciation is not a one-size fits all behaviour. Appreciation should be shown a way that matches the situation and suits your child. Consider writing a note to show appreciation for something special. Boys often prefer private encouragement rather than public acknowledgement so consider when and where you shower them with encouragement.

Positive side effects

There are plenty of positive side effects to showing appreciation for a behaviour. An appreciative parent comment helps create a healthy, happy family atmosphere. Appreciation can change the mood of the giver and receiver and it’s a behaviour that if adopted by children can be experienced by the next generation. That makes parent appreciation a behaviour for the ages.