

St James College



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NEWSLETTER

12 MAY 2017

Vol. No.12

Dates for Your Diary

- May
- 15 Peter Vardy Conference
- 17 P&F Meeting
- 17 Yr 8 Debating
- 19 Free Dress Day
- 19 Cultural Night
- 23 Yr 7 HPV 2 Immunization
- 23-26 Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Camp
- 24 Yr 9 Debating
- 25 TAH Restaurant

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

BRINGING THEM HOME

A beautiful event occurred today at school. The College was privileged to host the 20th anniversary of the 'Bringing Them Home' Report and the 50th anniversary of the successful Referendum that included Aboriginal People in the Commonwealth Census for the first time.

Both of these landmark events drew the much-needed attention of European Australians to the appalling treatment of the Indigenous Peoples of this country for well over 200 years since European occupation.

Today, in a special ceremony in the Hall, we joined in prayer and reflection with Elders, dignitaries and students from visiting schools, together in solidarity, knowing that we all are intrinsically connected through our presence on this land so precious to the ancient stories and spirituality of its original inhabitants.

Many Aboriginal people in Australia have experienced the tragedy of disconnection with land and spirituality. They were displaced as a result of past misguided and inhumane Government policies. It is important that we all take time to reflect on such events and to remember the significance of 'home' and all that it stands for. At St James, so many of our students have grown up in refugee camps as a result of war and political destabilization. Others have risked their lives to escape horrific personal circumstances and yearn for acceptance here. Families send a child here to St James who may need disability support in a caring and supportive environment, others because they have heard that in this unique school their child may find a place of welcome and belonging. There are even some whose experience of 'home' is anything but welcoming and nurturing.

Today's commemoration is foremost about Australia's First People whose dispossession and disconnection with land and heritage is the tragic story of this country, a story that affects all of us today.

Aboriginal People are great sharers, they are great talkers and they are the most beautiful welcomers.

Surely it is possible for us all to *share* this great land respectful of its original ownership, to *talk* about and appreciate all our stories, and to open our arms in *welcome* to all those who need a place to call home.

CULTURAL NIGHT

Next Friday evening, the College presents its annual Cultural Night.

There has been much frenetic activity around the classrooms during lunchtimes as groups of students from all cultural backgrounds rehearse their items in preparation for the big night. The event has become a much-loved tradition in the school, a celebration of who we are and a strong statement to the community of the value of inclusivity.

The show commences at 7pm in the College Hall. There will be a nominal entry fee of \$5 to help cover the cost of lighting and sound. Drinks and snacks will also be on sale during interval.

Please come along and support this wonderful, crazy, exciting, enriching and most enjoyable highlight of the College's year.

Live Jesus in our Hearts

Gerry Crooks
Principal

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly to get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullying.gov.au to find out some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check-in** regularly with your child.

BULLYING. NO WAY!

Having trouble getting the College Newsletter at home? Would you like to receive it via email? If so, please send an email to school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au and we will add you your mailing list.

ABSENTEE LINE
3230 8655

Please clearly state student's name, Year level and home room.

Captains' Corner

Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Unity, Serving the Community - this is the mantra in which the College Leaders have decided to focus on this year as the seniors of the school. Throughout the school this term we have various activities that will help fulfil this mantra.

Last week the school celebrated Edmund Rice's feast day. Edmund Rice was the founder of the Christian Brothers and whom we base our values around. On this day we also presented badges to the senior students who have joined the student leadership team and as a school we are strengthening our unity.

Fast approaching we have our annual Cultural Night. This is a night where we embrace our diversity as a community, with various acts from different cultures and a celebration of talent from all over the school. It is an exciting tradition that brings the community together.

These are just some of the events that bring our school together to follow our mantra. We hope to have more events and fulfil our goal as a school community throughout the year.

Bridget Aitchison and Lachlan Plater

Deputy Principal

Mr Tony McCulkin

Next week there are some significant anniversaries of events important to Indigenous history and in particular, issues of reconciliation. Today is the anniversary of the release of the *Bringing them home report*, published by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1997. This report not only provided the agenda for responsible reform in Australian Government Indigenous policy, it has provided an extensive archive of oral histories detailing experiences of families that were separated due to policies of assimilation.

Friday May 26 is National Sorry Day. The first National Sorry Day was commemorated on May 29 in 1998 – exactly twelve months after the tabling of the *Bringing them home report* in Federal Parliament. Sorry Day is not just about expressing regret for past experiences, it is also intended to celebrate the beginning of new understandings. “Today we acknowledge the past hurt and its consequences, make a public apology for this practice, and promise to move forward together on the journey of healing” (Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, February 13, 2008).

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an annual celebration from 27 May – 3 June and is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories, contributions and achievements. The week is framed by two key events in Australia's history which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation.

Saturday, May 27 marks the 50th anniversary of the Referendum of 1967 that granted citizen rights to Indigenous Australians. This referendum was passed with the highest yes vote (91%) of any Australian Referendum.

On 3 June, 1992, 25 years ago, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Indigenous people had a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for Indigenous land rights called Native Title. It is remembered as MABO Day.

Indigenous issues are a formal part of the curriculum across St James College. Aboriginal spirituality is part of studies in comparative religions in Studies of Religion; social justice issues as they pertain to indigenous populations are studied in Religion and Ethics; indigenous history is studied in History and indigenous cultural achievements are examined in many contexts. Perhaps more importantly, particularly in National Reconciliation Week, indigenous perspectives are constantly sought and that their viewpoint is not lost in the clamor of louder and more powerful voices.

New Student Leaders Induction



AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

The month of May is traditionally the month of Mary and the Pastoral Team were treated to a fantastic prayer by Mr Bartlett this week at our meeting. The prayer, *The Memorare*, took me back a long time to my primary school days where we recited this every day during May.

The Memorare

Remember, O my gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,

Implored thy help or sought the intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin or virgins, my Mother.

To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions; but in Thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

Finger Spinners

Most crazes tend to play out at St James and these items are no different. The complicating factor with these is that they are billed as a relief for students with ASD or OCD. At St James Mrs Donna Martin and the TLS Team have a number of these items, which are better designed than Finger Spinners, for use by students who need that kind of stimulation. So therefore, Finger Spinners are not to be visible in classrooms at any time. If they are, teachers will confiscate them immediately and students may collect them from Student Services at the end of the school day.

Uniform

Please remember that any foreign jumpers or hoodies will also be confiscated and students will receive a detention. The uniform shop has a number of school options to purchase and it is very important to our school that students are dressed well travelling to and from school.





AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

Last Friday morning, we had a wonderful celebration of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice where we heard about the life that he had led and how his actions had changed a whole world of education and compassion for those who were poor and oppressed, commencing in Ireland in the 1800's. As a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition, it is lovely how the life and story of Edmund is inspiring for all people regardless of their faith or background. In fact, many of the unfortunate events which Edmund had to overcome throughout his life are things that affect us in our contemporary world. He had the terrible misfortune of losing a wife and then having to raise a little baby girl who had a range of medical conditions which with they had no cures for nor help in the society at that time. His Catholic faith prevented him from doing a number of things, however, Edmund had the drive to turn things around a make the positive emerge from negative situations. We have much to learn from his lessons and I encourage both you and your families to discuss the Ricean Way which guides our lives here at St James College and hopefully these lessons flow on into the precious lives of the students with whom we have the privilege of learning with.



Friday we also saw the induction of the new Student Leaders who were announced to the College and presented with their badges. We are very proud of these young women and men and wish them every blessing as they continue their journey of leadership. They are: Carey House – Maryjane Koch, Ben Arnold; Hogan House – Mark Zernike; Long House – Riley McIntosh, Ruwa Idress; Mary Rice House – Sam Silver, Pristesh Kumar; Aboriginal Ambassador – Layla Ross. We know that they will do a wonderful job in the leading of the many aspects required of them in this role.



Today, St James College was privileged to host the “Bringing Them Home 20” Report which was part of the 1997-2017 Healing Foundation to acknowledge the past wrongs in our history of the Aboriginal People. I will provide a report about this day next week.

On Wednesday this week, we continued our long tradition of visiting the sick and ill children at the Lady Cilento Hospital School in the lead up to Mother’s Day. We do this each year to provide the sick children with a small gift to give to their mothers as they are so unwell that they are unable to get out to purchase one themselves. It is a very sobering experience for our students to see and interact with those who are really having to battle to stay alive - some have been in hospital for many, many months, yet they still managed to smile and be grateful for the visit and the gift. I would like to thank Ms Nikki Carpenter who accompanied the students for me, to Ms Genevieve O’Sullivan who helped with the gifts and organization, the wonderful student who represented St James so beautifully, and the wonderful staff and students at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital. I include a report written by Tara McKenzie who was one of our wonderful students who took part in the visit.



This week, four students went to the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital. Myself and the other girls had so much fun. We met many bright boys and girls and we had the great pleasure of giving them a gift that they can give to Mum, Nana or someone special for Mothers’ Day.

The kids showed me that every down has an up and that you just have to see the bright side to things, and keep on going. The way the kids’ faces lit up was heart-warming. Some of the children had brothers and sisters that were sick, or it was themselves. We heard their stories and some of the kids read their special cards for Mum to us.

The teachers were so kind and loving towards the kids. We could see that even the school brought happiness to them in a difficult time.

I felt nervous not knowing what to say or how to feel, but the kids were just so happy to have visitors. I am proud to have been chosen and would love to do this again.

Tara McKenzie



Every Blessing for a more restful week next week.

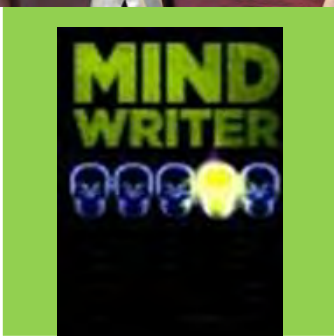
Library News

Ms Nikki Carpenter

The cooler weather is perfect for curling up with a good book – particularly for half an hour or so in bed before putting the light out! Please come to the Library and let us help you to find a book you will enjoy. We can cater to all tastes and reading abilities and also have ‘talking books’ (audiobooks) as well! Email us at askthelibrary@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au .

Jimmie’s Pick

This week, Jimmie picks *Mind Writer* by Steve Cole. It’s a fast-paced book and follows the adventures of Luke and Samira who can read minds and make people do whatever they want! Suitable for all readers, it can be found in our Quick Reads section.



CULTURAL NIGHT

Cultural Night

Miss Erin Johnston



Friday 19 May, 2017
 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the College Hall
 Tickets are \$5.00 per person, on sale at the Door.
 Drinks and Snacks will be on sale throughout the evening.
 Parking will be available in the lower playground, entry via Gloucester St.

English Department

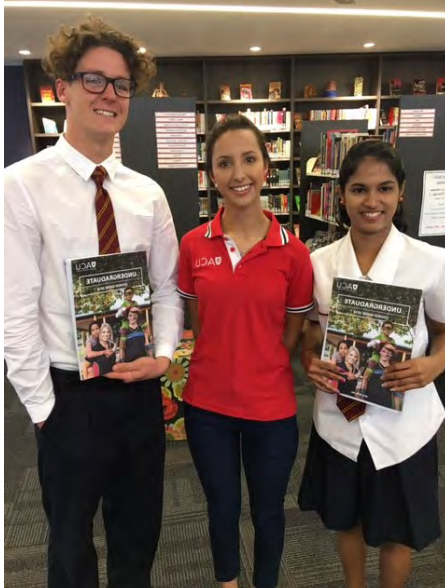
Ms Rozalie Ferris

CALLING WRITERS!

To all you budding writers here at St James, now's your chance to show your talent. Enter one of the competitions below. You may get published. There's also cash and prizes to be won!

COMPETITION	ENTRIES CLOSE		
YOUNG JOURNALISTS' AWARD			
♦ Human interest article		26 May 2017	
	1st Prize	2nd Prize	
Years 7, 8, 9	\$300	\$200	
NAIDOC COMPETITION			
♦ Essay (Years 10—12)		24 June 2017	
♦ Creative Writing (Years 7—9)		24 June 2017	
Prizes: Iphone 7, Mountain Bike, Macbook Pro			
2017 LITERARY COMPETITION			
♦ Poem		21 July 2017	
♦ Short Story			
♦ Non-Fiction			
Sections	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
Years 11—12	\$300	\$200	\$100
Years 9—10	\$150	\$100	\$75
Years 7—8	\$150	\$100	\$75

ACU Information Session



Don't delay! See your English teacher who will have all the details.

TAH Restaurant Evening

Ms Louella Sparks

Hospitality Training Restaurants

Reservations for the TAH Restaurant evenings on Thursday 25 May and Tuesday 30 May are fast filling up. As reservations are essential, please contact Ms Sparks at the College or via email at Louella.sparks@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au .

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

Date Claimer

Friday 2nd June, 10.30am, Years 10 & 12 - Careers and Employment Expo, Convention Centre, South Brisbane.

ACU visit to St James College

Year 12 students were given the latest course information at this school presentation. ACU has a special entry into their university courses called The Early Achievement Programme. Students who apply to ACU through this program can be offered a 2018 course place in August 2017.

School Based Traineeships

There are current Retail and Hospitality traineeships available to Year 11 students.

Lachlan Plater, Ms Inez Goves (ACU Student Ambassador) and Goushiga Gopalakrishnan.