

St James College



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NEWSLETTER

10 JUNE 2016

VOL. No. 17

Dates for Your Diary

June

- 11 Class of 1976, 40 Year Reunion
- 13-17 Year 10 Work Experience
- 14-21 Year 11 & 12 Exam Block
- 15 P&F Meeting
- 15-17 Year 7 Camp
- 22 East Timor Immersion commences
- 22-24 Student Free Days
- 24 Last Day of Term 2
- 25 P&F BBQ Stall, Bunnings Albion

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.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

The Archdiocese is currently directing a process for the validation of Religious Education Programs across Catholic schools in Queensland. The process is to ensure that all Catholic schools are faithful to the courses outlined in the Archdiocesan Religious Education syllabus, that staff are delivering these programs appropriately and that there is an authentic and tangible faith-life at the College.

Last Tuesday, the College's Religious Education Team, led by Mrs Tricia Parry, Assistant Principal Identity and Head of RE, in front of a panel of validators designated by the Archdiocese, delivered an excellent presentation which not only eloquently described the College's well-organised RE program but also placed the teaching of it firmly within the context of this particular Catholic school of St James in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

We can be immensely proud of the way the faith-life of St James is lived out on a daily basis here. The diversity in cultural and religious backgrounds of students means that our religious practices and programs must reflect a God who is 'all things to all people'. While there are mandatory elements in RE programs that are required to be taught at all year levels, it nonetheless behooves us to ensure that the religious, moral and ethical needs of all students are catered for and respected.

It is a mark of this respect for the dignity which we hope we afford to all individuals at St James that particular care is taken in ensuring understanding, compassion and tolerance for all are undeniable elements in the way we do things here.

It was a with a sense of great pride and indeed a privilege to witness the presentation of our RE Team at the Validation Panel and I thank, in particular, Mrs Parry, Mrs O'Sullivan, Miss Whelan and Mrs Vongsarath for the extraordinary amount of preparation that went into the process and its presentation. We are delighted that all this hard work has resulted in the College being awarded full accreditation by the Archdiocese of Brisbane for its programs.

This week, Assistant Principal, Mr Martin Wiseman, underwent a Summative Review appraisal in his position as part of his employment contract. The Review Panel was impressed with the comments of colleagues, students and parents in the way Mr Wiseman has approached his work. From a Principal's point of view, Mr Wiseman epitomizes everything that an Edmund Rice education is all about. A down-to-earth, businesslike yet very authentic manner of working with staff and students, underpinned by a very deep sense of compassion for all, are hallmarks of Mr Wiseman's performance of his role and speak of a person wholly and unconditionally committed to the good of all. I congratulate Mr Wiseman and thank him for his wonderful on-going contribution to St James.

Ms Anne Ryan, Head of Faculty for Teaching and Learning Support, has recently left the College. I am pleased to announce that Mr Isikeli Kubunameca has been appointed to this position. He brings to the position excellent qualifications in this field, together with a broad experience in working with students with learning differences. I congratulate Mr Kubunameca and also take this opportunity to thank Ms Ryan for her contribution to St James during the first semester and wish her every success in the future.

A broad range of employers this week visited the school to assist our Year 10 students in their Work Education program. Organised by Mrs Tania Munro together with our young Beacon student ambassadors, students underwent a series of mock interviews for a hypothetical job. I was lucky enough to be one of the interviewers and was very impressed by the students' standard of presentation, their preparation for the interview and their quality of engagement. Next week, the Year 10s head out on Work Experience. We wish them well in their new workplaces.

Next week our Year 7s embark on their annual camp to Kindilan. We wish them every success in what will, no doubt, be a very enjoyable and productive experience.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal

Au Revior Marie et Gaetan



Ramadan Presentation at Assembly



Deputy Principal

Mr Tony McCulkin

June 12 is World Day against Child Labour. An estimated 158 million children aged 5-14 are engaged in child labour - one in six children in the world. Millions of children are engaged in hazardous situations or conditions, such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery. They are everywhere but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, labouring behind the walls of workshops, hidden from view in plantations (UNICEF). One of the serious consequences of child labour is the time lost to education.

Pope John Paul II once said "Education is the completion of the person. To be educated is to be more fitted for life; to have a greater capacity for appreciating what life is, what it has to offer, and what the person has to offer in return to the wider society."

God, we pray that we may live in such a way that we choose wisely each day, and take responsibility for the choices that we make. Inspire us to use for good our education and all the challenges that we will face, that we may grow more fully human, and do good to those around us. Teach us to discern good from evil that we may grow in integrity of character and develop a true sense of values through following Jesus, your Son and our Brother. Amen

There has been considerable coverage in the media regarding the growth in the use of new communications media to harass or offend others. This is a very difficult area for schools unless victims of these practices speak up and reveal what is happening. At recent professional development events, teachers from St James have been informed of the prevalence of these types of attacks and the possibly severe consequences for the victims. It does not need to be stated these kinds of attacks are completely against all that is valued at this college, however, it may not be evident to all that there are significant legal consequences possible.

Section 474.17 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code states: Using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence: A person is guilty of an offence if: (a) the person uses a carriage service; and (b) the person does so in a way (whether by the method of use or the content of a communication, or both) that reasonable persons would regard as being, in all the circumstances, menacing, harassing or offensive. (Penalty: Imprisonment for 3 years).

Breaches of legislation cannot be tolerated by the college and even when such breaches occur outside college jurisdiction, if the breach results in students feeling intimidated or humiliated at school, then the school will intervene. Parents are asked to ensure that students are aware of these issues and consequences.

A few days out from the examination block for the Years 11 and 12 students the rush to complete assessment tasks and prepare for the examinations is evident across the college. Although it is natural to feel more stressed at this time, students who have been well organized all term will find themselves in a much more comfortable position at this time. The worse thing to do before an examination block is to risk your health by not exercising, eating properly, resting regularly or sleeping for adequate periods. Best wishes to all students in this final run to the end of term. **A reminder that classes finish on Tuesday June 21 and recommence Tuesday July 12.**

AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

School Photographs

Thank you to all students who were very cooperative and looked terrific for their official Homeroom photograph last Friday. They should all be great keepsakes, so I hope people have bought their copy.

Year 7 Camp

I spoke with the 7s on Wednesday regarding the gear list (they have another copy in their Diaries) and general expectations for Camp. All of them are looking forward to it and it is a great experience for them. We wish them well.

Year 10 Work Experience

An old teacher of mine once said that we should never wish students "good luck" because luck should have nothing to do with it!! Wise words. So I wish the Year 10s "good management" for the Work Experience next week. I know they have been thoroughly prepared by Mrs Munro and the Work Education teachers and as I write this, the students are sitting for their mock interviews. It will be quiet without them next week but I am sure they will earn our school a good name through their application and behaviour. For students in the past, this week has led to traineeships, apprenticeships and employment so I sincerely hope that tradition continues for our current Year 10s.

Exam Block

I again, wish our Senior students "good management" for their upcoming exams and assessment. Officially, it starts next Tuesday (14/6). I remind all students that they are to be at school for their assessment only and need to be in the Library for Study or under direct supervision from another teacher if they are not completing assessment. Uniform and all other expectations remain the same when they are on campus.

AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

St James College, although being a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition acknowledges the many cultural and multi faith dimensions of the students in our College Community. On Monday the Islam tradition and period of observance called Ramadan commenced for our Muslim students. There are many traditions which must be followed throughout this time and we have provided this information to all Homeroom teachers to inform all students about this special period.

As Ramadan commences at St James College this week so many of our Muslim students will be observing this period of holiness. The adherents of this faith are directed to fast from both food and drink from the time that the sun rises until sundown each day. Students of other faiths need to know that our Muslim students will be refraining from even water and staff have been asked to keep a special eye on our Muslim students throughout this time as it is a very demanding period of fasting and reflection. Provisions have been made for our Muslim students to pray at the commencement of the lunch period in STJ2 and STJ3.

MDA Football Fiesta



As Islam is covered in the Religious Education Syllabus through World Religions this should not be unfamiliar for many of our students. The gift of self which our Muslim students bring to our St James College Community are diverse, interesting, unique and authentic and we thank each of them for sharing their gift of self with us. At the completion of Ramadan we will celebrate with our Muslim friends sweet treats for all students in the school, just as we do for our special religious times of Easter and our Saints Feast Days.

A special prayer which will be included this Ramadan:

*Allah, on this day, take me closer towards Your pleasure, keep me away from Your anger or displeasure and grant me the opportunity to recite Your prayers, by Your mercy,
O the most Merciful.*

We join these members with our thoughts and prayers as they move into this sacred time. And we join them by saying our mantra - Live Jesus in Our Hearts - Forever.

Mater Little Miracles Walk



Ministry News

Miss Jessica Whelan

ERA for Change Welcome Football Fiesta

A few weeks ago, Raf Vongudamvitheia, Oskar Barnes, John Brobi and Wili Loboro represented St James at the Multicultural Development Association's Football Fiesta. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new Queenslanders to our State through a game of soccer. The students played on an ERA for Change team with students from Nudgee, St Pats and Gregory Terrace, and represented the school beautifully. Unfortunately we did not win any games, but it was a wonderful day of inclusivity and team work.

Mater Little Miracles Walk

Last weekend some students from the Social Justice Committee participated in the Mater Little Miracles 5km Walk organised predominantly by Jacob Forker-Freeman (Year 12). This walk raised money for sick and premature babies born at the Mater Hospital. After fundraising efforts and a sausage sizzle, the students raised over \$200 for the cause; such a fantastic achievement. Thanks to Shannon O'Gorman and Anne Ryan for supporting these students on the day, and to Jacob for his ongoing support towards all Social Justice initiatives.

Brekkie Van

As many of you are aware, Brekkie Van was highly reliant on the support from Bakers Delight Spring Hill as they donated 10 loaves of bread a week to our program. I wish to thank Beth and David for their amazing contribution to the school. We have currently almost secured another sponsor for bread so look out for further news in regards to this.

In the upcoming week I will be sending home the Brekkie Van roster for exam block and the holidays. If your child would like to be included in this commitment (every Wednesday and Friday - 6am at St James) please send me an email: jessica.whelan@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

Debating News

Mrs Karen Lindsey

It was the fourth and final round of the QDU competition for our Year 12s and Year 8s this past week and both teams fought valiantly in their short prep debates. Whilst our senior team had to argue the negative side of the topic, "That senior executives and company directors should be held criminally liable for environmental damage caused by their corporations," our Juniors had the affirmative side of the topic, "That we should choose not to use social media." Both teams were really impressive in their debates and have demonstrated the huge leaps in knowledge, skill and confidence they have gained throughout the competition. Each team lost by only 2 points, which shows how very competitive in nature the QDU competition is. Congratulations to our debaters - Year 12 Sam Malone, Chanelle Johnston, Jacob Forker-Freeman and Year 8 Harrison Goodeve, William Peardon and Gabriel Stapleton.

Our Year 11 Girls Debating Team had their final debate two weeks ago in the Brisbane Girls Debating Competition held at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. This was their best effort yet, tackling the affirmative side of the very complex topic, "That we should allow Indigenous Australians the right to manage their own land." Luckily, the girls had been studying native title in their legal studies class and this was evident in their well-constructed arguments. Congratulations to the girls - Esta Rarere, Bridget Aitchison and Riley McIntosh - who put up a great fight against the BGGS team they competed against.

Public speaking is terrifying for so many in our society and for these young people to stand confidently in front of peers, parents and other strangers to deliver a speech they wrote only moments before is outstanding. Not only this, but to see them think quickly and respond coherently with a well-reasoned response for their rebuttal points, is inspiring. This is such a valuable skill that will set them in good stead for any future career they find themselves in. We look forward to another strong debating competition in 2017!

Library News

Ms Nikki Carpenter

Library News: To celebrate Library and Information Week, we invited students to make suggestions as to how they believed we could improve the Library. We had lots of fabulous suggestions, which ranged from "A bigger pen for Jimmie so that we can sit in it with him" to "books to learn German". The winner of the best suggestion was **Thomas Markwell** who suggested "Lego". Thomas receives a Certificate of Appreciation and a Doctor Who Graphic Novel as a prize, and his idea has already proven to be a big hit with many Library users during break times.

Jimmie's Picks: The Library has a range of **Graphic Novels** which prove to be very popular with many teenage readers. We have the *Nancy Drew* and *The Hardy Boys* series for those who like a mystery; some classics, such as *Frankenstein* and *Romeo and Juliet*; old favourites like *Asterix* and *Tintin*; and the ever-popular Manga series, *Vernonia* and *Deathnote*. Graphic Novels are a great alternative for reluctant readers and those who enjoy comic-style genres.

Year 12 & 11 Debating Teams



RAMPAGE!

Rampage Winner from last week: Congratulations to Tyson Snagg (Year 12)

Rampage Answer from last week: 4645

New Rampage Question: Place each one of the digits 1-9 in the grid to make the sums work.

7	×		÷		= 14
-		÷		+	
	×		-		= 9
×		+		+	
	×	6	-		= 9
=	=	=			
6	10	14			

Sports News

Mr Scott Prickett

Confraternity Rugby League Carnival: It is only two weeks away now till this year's Confraternity team heads off to Rockhampton to compete against many of the Catholic schools in Queensland. The team has been working hard in its preparation and final touches are being put into place.

I would like to announce the 2016 Confraternity team and the jersey number they will be representing St James in at the Carnival:

1. Klausmann Steffany
2. Robbie Swan
3. Caleb Jeffery (Vice Captain)
4. Alex Meadley
5. Ezekiel Koch
6. Tai Leaupepe (Captain)
7. Hamiora Keelan
8. Uli Seumanutafa
9. Jacob Anderson
10. John Walters
11. Garang Ajang
12. Michael Townley-O'Neill
13. Mano Ruwhiu
14. Jamiel Swan
15. Mason Lindsey
16. Galal Kodi
17. Jay Jones
18. Mason Tivalu
19. Jerome Tufuga
20. Tyrese Tufuga



Sports Quote of the Week

