FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

This week I have had two quite unique but vastly different experiences.

The first was a visit for the day to the EREA Flexible Learning Centre, St Joseph's, in North Melbourne. I had the privilege to speak with Leadership personnel and staff about their challenging work with students who come from difficult and, in many cases, dysfunctional backgrounds but who wish to re-engage with school. It is a large inner-city centre catering for over 400 students - not a school in the mainstream sense, but a place of learning where young men and women can connect and find a place of support, hope and opportunity. Educational programs and activities are many and varied, responding to the needs of the young people who walk through the doors daily. It was inspirational to both meet staff and to observe the level of interaction that they have with their students in addressing their needs.

The second experience was that I sat on a School Renewal Panel over three days for St Kevin's College, a large multi-campus EREA school in Melbourne. St Kevin's has long had a reputation of being one of the most 'elite' Catholic schools in Australia, a school that was established by the Christian Brothers in 1918 to provide educational opportunities for Catholic young men from all walks of life.

Sitting on these sorts of panels, one learns so much about what is the real essence of education, and education in the Edmund Rice Tradition in particular. St James College is light years away from the environment of St Kevin's. But, I am happy to say, there is a rich tradition that we share as schools who take their inspiration from the story of the Christian Brothers in Australia and also are continually inspired by the Touchstones of our Charter - Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community and Justice & Solidarity. Students from St Kevin's hail from over 240 different postcodes around greater Melbourne. Most travel to school by train - yes, they have their own railway station at the entrance to the school in Toorak (I kid you not!); in fact they don't hire buses when the school has to be transported to a large event in the city such as their Opening School Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, they simply all just take the train - all 2000 of them - as you do!

St Kevin's is an extraordinary place. Yes, its students perform with some outstanding results in the VCE invariably each year. But what is often not publicised is the depth of understanding and practical expression of key aspects of the Charter, those that in our own way here at St James are similarly expressed. While our student cohort may be vastly different and relative needs staggeringly challenging to say the least, St Kevin's commitment to social justice, their embracing of the quality of Mercy that Pope Francis so earnestly epitomises, and the rich sense of community that is tangible in the day-to-day activities of the school are, in themselves, inspirational.

What I loved about my experience this week was that I had brought with me my deep love and commitment for St James to sit openly alongside two other quite different expressions of Edmund Rice education. What I have found at the heart of all three is a living, vibrant and clearly visible richness that meets young people where they are, engages them to the possibilities and challenges them as to what could be in the future.

The rich diversity that characterises the 53 schools in Australia that form the network of Edmund Rice Education convinces me that no one of them alone has the true and authentic expression, but that together we embody a mission that witnesses to a message that the world needs and is desperate to hear.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Jimmies in the Park Picnic Day
Roma Street Parklands - Sunday, 11th September, 2016

The St James College community – past and current students, families and College staff – are warmly invited by the school to enjoy a picnic day at the Roma Street Parklands in Spring Hill. This picnic will be held on Sunday, 11th September, from 11.00am. Please join us for a relaxing and enjoyable day and for a chance to meet other Jimmies families, students and staff. Please bring picnic food to share and some chairs. There is a flyer included in this Newsletter with details of where we will be gathering for the picnic in the Parklands. If you would like further information about the picnic please call either Anna Coventry on 0411 125 856 or Lezah Kupfer on 0434 651 160.

AP Identity

Mr Martin Wiseman

As I wrote last week, last Sunday was a historic day for the Catholic Church as Mother Teresa of Calcutta was declared a saint. It is not often that someone who lived in our world so recently is made a saint and it was enlightening to see the many connections she made with others, especially the poor and marginalized, who appeared on screens around the world. Mother Teresa has only died relatively recently to be sainted with her death occurring in 1997. She was friend to many, including the poor and needy. Her mission closely aligns with the mission which we follow as modelled by our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. Much of what Saint Teresa of Kolkata did can easily be related to our students in the story of Edmund Rice as he ministered to those less fortunate, the poor and the marginalized, and the uneducated youth in Ireland so many years ago. It is a wonderful affirmation of the Sacramentality. Michael manages the day knowing that the context of our college which is a multifaith community in a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition, so the day is always facilitated to be a day which is highly inclusive of all students. It is my hope that each of the students were able to “carry a smile in their hearts” after this experience.

I wish all Students, Staff and Families every blessing for a wonderful holiday during the upcoming end of term break.

Senior School Coordinator

Ms Di Markey

QCS

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who completed two days of testing on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. They are to be commended for their excellent commitment and outstanding effort on both days. The students were well prepared for the tests having sat a number of past papers and attending preparation sessions led by myself, Ms Schaefer, Mrs Hales and Miss Shand, throughout the year. Thank you to these staff, to Mr McCulkin who coordinated the overall process and ensured the smooth running of the test, to the supervisors, and to Mrs New who prepared lunch for students on both days. A great team effort.

Thinking Prepare Plan for Life After School

Redlands

This is a FREE Disability Action Week Event

Where: Capalaba Place Hall 19 Rickey Street, Capalaba
When: Wednesday 14 September 2016 - 9.30am to 1.00pm

(For further details, please refer to the advertisement on the College website)

Engineering Career Day

Deputy Principal

Mr Tony McCulkin

Years 11 and 12 examinations began yesterday. These are particularly significant examinations for Year 12 as Heads of Faculties will be preparing folios of student work for verification of levels of achievement at District Review Panels next week. These panels will meet on October 17 to compare standards between different schools in each district across Queensland. While results can change due to changes in student performance during Term 4, these agreements between the College and officers of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority determine exit levels of achievement.

Teachers are also completing assessment requirements with students across all year levels. Data gained from these assessment tasks will be used to compile reports to parents which will be sent home during the break. While there are no formally scheduled Parent Teacher interviews next term, parents and guardians are always welcomed to make contact with teaching staff to check on student progress.

Early next term Years 8 and 9 students will be required to select elective subjects for 2017. The Australian Curriculum largely determines what students study at least up to Year 8 but some choice is available in Years 9 and 10. Students will be carefully stepped through this process and there is also an information evening for parents scheduled for Tuesday October 11 at 7:00 pm. This is an important evening for both parents and students to assist in making informed decisions about subject selections.

AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

Pacific Islander Dance Performance

A huge thank you to the staff and students from Kimihia Primary School in Huntley New Zealand who performed so beautifully for our school on Tuesday. They came at the invitation of Mr Kubunameca who runs our PI Support Group. Our students were mesmerised by their singing and traditional dance and we hope they enjoy the rest of their stay in Australia.

Year 9 Camp

All Year 9 students are to arrive at school at normal time on Monday and we are looking at 9am departure. I have given all the students another gear list on Friday to ensure they have packed everything. If you have any questions please call Ms Yolanda Cano at Student Services. It is always a great experience at Jimmies on the Dam and we are looking forward to sharing the peace with our 9s. Students will return at approximately 2.45pm on Wednesday.

Exam Block

I reminded all our senior students regarding expectations for the rest of the term. They are to be in full uniform whenever they are on Campus and they need to be under direct supervision by a staff member when completing or studying for assessment.

AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

THINK PREPARE PLAN

for life after School

Redlands

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Engineering Career Day
The results for the test are not released until the completion of Year 12.

Assessment
Most assessment tasks for the term have now been completed and submitted for marking. Exam block for Years 11 and 12 students commence on Thursday of this week. Students are reminded of the following procedure:

- Be ready to enter the exam room 15 minutes before the starting time.
- Bring all necessary equipment to the exam. No borrowing will be permitted.
- Do not leave the exam room before the appointed finishing time.
- In the event of illness or unable to attend, a phone call must be made to Mr McCulkin, ideally prior to the commencement of the exam
- Full College uniform is required whenever present on campus.
- There will be no formal lessons during exam week. Students at school must be either in exams or supervised study.

Exams are an opportunity for students to show what they have learnt throughout the term. Many have worked very hard and these exams will be recognition and reward for this commitment.

The secret to huge improvements

Legendary basketball coach John Wooden once said “you have to apply yourself each day to becoming a little better. By applying yourself to the task of becoming a little better each and every day over a period of time, you will become a lot better.”

The secret to huge improvements is- there is no secret (if there is, I sure haven’t found it yet). Huge improvements don’t happen over a day, week, month or even a year. They take time.

I often explain to students that they need to make sure that they are a little bit better when they leave school each day, than when they walked in. We accumulate our improvements over time, which ensures we keep growing as a human being and as a learner. (Luke McKenna Unleashing Personal Potential) Some advice for our senior students to take on board.

Below are some strategies for successful outcomes in exams:

The night before the exam

- Make sure you have checked and packed the required equipment.
- Go over rules, dates or any other rote learning that is required.
- Mentally list off every topic and key points in the topics that you have covered in the exam subject during the term.
- Make sure you get adequate sleep the night before the exam.

ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM

- Make sure you have a good breakfast.
- On arrival at school do not get caught up in ‘panic conversation’ that could undermine your confidence.
- Plan your strategy for time allocation prior to the exam.
- Be positive and confident! If you have worked hard during the term this is the time when you deserve to be rewarded. Go into the exam feeling strong and confident – do not doubt yourself.
- During perusal read the paper carefully. Use a highlighter to remind or make yourself aware of key points.
- During the exam be aware of the time. There is nothing more frustrating than not being able to answer a question when you know how to do it!
- Work hard for the whole duration of the exam. Check, check and re-check your work until it is time to hand in your paper.

Remember the 3 ‘Ps’ – Prepare, practise and persevere.
Cert II Outdoor Recreation

During week 27 the Year 12 Outdoor Recreation class tentatively set off upon our paddling adventure. Unsure if it was going to be a great success or an utter disaster. As it would turn out we had both in equal measure! The camp was a great success, not everything went smoothly but hey, it’s all about learning. There were many positives throughout our time at Cooloola, everyone successfully survived the most nerve racking 38km paddle, getting to know each other even better through the personalised gifts that we made and spending 24 hrs a day together for 4 days! There were so many positives, with only few unexpected challenges. The major challenge, which I’m sure you’ve all heard about, is the event in which Trent very eloquently managed to get second degree burns. The cold was also a big factor, in which we had to battle not to lose any fingers or toes from frostbite. Overall, camp was the most fun and emotional rollercoaster we’ve managed to survive yet!

Library News

The Library has been a hive of activity this week with students preparing for exams and passing in assessment pieces. Already we have been through around 5 reams of copying paper (2500 pieces) because our students have been so busy printing assignments! We have created an “Exam Block Students Only” area at the back of the Library so that our “white shirts” can study and prepare for their exams in relative peace. The “blue shirts” still have plenty of room to spread out with their cards, computers, jigsaws and books at the front area of the Library.

Jimmie's Pick

This week, Jimmie picks Death Cure by James Dashner – the third book in the ‘Maze Runner’ trilogy. A fast-paced, futuristic story, this book will have you perched on the edge of your seat! Recommended for confident readers who like the Sci-Fi genre.

Sports News

Regional Athletics – Last Thursday and Friday St James had four students represent the school and the district in track and field. All student competed to the best of their abilities and represented the school proudly. Two of the students have qualified for the State Championship held at the Queensland State Athletics Centre on October 20. Below you can see all the students their events and placing. St James is so proud of these students and their achievements and effort.

Zoey Plater – 14 Girls Long Jump – 6th Place
Tama Tupaea – 13 Boys – Shot Put – 1st Place, Discus – 1st Place, Javelin – 1st Place
Tyrese Tufuga – 15 Boys – Shot Put – 3rd Place
Caleb Haworth-Brown – 17 Boys – Shot Put – 1st Place, Discus – 1st Place

State Championship Basketball – Next week see our boys and girls basketball teams begin their campaign at the 2016 Queensland All School State Championships. Both teams have been training hard and doing their final preparations. Please find below the draw and venue for the first two days of competition. We hope to see some of you there supporting these teams and our school. The competition dates are from 15-18 September

Wednesday Sports – Just a reminder for students who have selected Ten Pin Bowling or Fishing are to pay their money into the front office before the end of term.

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Jimmies in the Park Picnic Day

at Roma Street Parklands
Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill

Sunday 11th. September, 2016 starting at 11.00am

The St. James College community – past and current students, families and college staff – are warmly invited by the school to enjoy a picnic day at the Roma Street Parklands
Please join us for a relaxing and enjoyable day and for a chance to meet other Jimmies families and staff. It is a great way to meet new and old friends and families!

We will be gathering at the lawn area as pictured which is the Lake Precinct area marked by the arrow on the map. The school banner will also be on display. Enter at Gregory Terrace entrance.

Please bring picnic food to share but no BBQs are available. Also bring some chairs or a rug.

Parking is available in the Parklands but it may be easier to travel by train to Roma Street and walk.

For further information please call Anna Coventry on 0411 125 856 or Lezah Kupfer on 0434 651 160.