Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

At the College Assembly this week, I was delighted to announce that the following students have been appointed to Student Leadership positions for 2017:

I congratulate this fine team of young men and women and I look forward to their leadership, commitment and involvement throughout 2017.

Last Friday evening, the College celebrated its annual Awards Night. Special Awards were presented at the conclusion of the evening which highlighted those who, by their on-going commitment to the College, their studies and the spirit of St James:

- Finbar Mulry Award (the College’s most prestigious award): Asadullah Abdullah
- Cathedral of St Stephen Award for Service: Asadullah Abdullah
- Academic Dux of the College: Uyen Thu Thi Pham
- Academic Integrity Prize: Yen Nha Thi Tran
- Vocational Education Dux of the College: Alexander McFadyen
- Caltex Best All-Rounder Award: Michael Townley-O’Neill
- Principal’s Special Awards:
  - Mohammad Salim, Bakhtawer Hassani
  - Ahmad Fahim Hakimi
  - Dawn and David Moloney

Year 12s commence their final examinations on Monday and we wish them every success as they count down towards their Graduation Ceremony on 17 November. Needless to say, it is important for all students to finish well. Students have been informed of the consequences that will follow should they choose to engage in any inappropriate conduct in these final days that affects the smooth running of the school.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Family Therapy Sessions

Shannon O’Gorman, one of the College Counsellors, is offering to all St James families a Family Therapy Clinic at the College.

Common reasons for support include: behavioural concerns at school or home, conflict over school work, complexities arising as a result of pre-existing medical or mental health diagnosis.

The sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 7.45am and are free of charge.

If you are interested please contact Shannon by email Shannon.ogorman@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au or via the school number and ask for Extension 663.

St James College Awards Night
Friday 28 October

Thank you to all students and families who supported our celebration of excellence last Friday evening.

It was great to see so many of our community there to share in the success of those award winners on Friday evening. It was a genuine community event, much like Cultural Night, and whilst we were on show with some special guests, the Jimmies’ Spirit was there in abundance.

Year 12 Graduation

I am reminding all Year 12 families that the Year 12 Retreat that is on the calendar has been moved from this Friday evening to Friday November 17. We ask all Year 12s to be at school at the normal time of 8.30am and we will run the Retreat component then. The rest of the day will be dedicated to farewelling this fine group, both in Houses and in the College context. We will culminate their farewell with a Graduation Ceremony at St Brigid’s Church in Red Hill at 6pm followed by supper at 7.30pm. I very much look forward to seeing you all there.

Michael Grose Article

This week’s article from Michael Grose demonstrates the importance of delayed gratification for children. Teaching children to wait and earn things is very important for them to be successful and happy in life. It is a great read. Enjoy!!

AP Identity

This week we celebrated two of the great Catholic Church Feast Days – Tuesday 1 November is the feast of All Saints and Wednesday 2 November is the feast of All Souls. Both of these days hold special significance within the Church.

All Saints Day provides us with the opportunity to recognise not only those people who have been canonised and have the title of Saint before their name, such as the recently canonised St Teresa of Kolkata, but it also encourages us to remember the many women and men who have made significant contributions to our lives in a variety of different ways. Although a number of these outstanding people will never be formally recognised by the canonisation process of the Catholic Church, to us it is important to remember the saints who journey with us. These can be our mums and dads, grandparents, teachers or other significant people who assist us in the journey of life through their extraordinary love, support and commitment which they show to us. We also remember Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers at this time of celebration.

All Souls Day is a time to reflect on those who once journeyed with us but have now died and left this earth. The day provides us with the opportunity to remember those whom we miss, the example that they set and the lessons which we have learnt from them when they were with us prior to our death. Many parishes have Remembrance Books in their churches during this time where you can enter the names of loved ones to pray for them during this month of November particularly.

I share with you a prayer by Ruth Burgess titled “A Home Filled With God” and hope that it provides you with the same reminder that it gave me – to enjoy the time of both God and our loved ones.

May God the Maker bless you,
May you delight in the sunlight and starlight and surprises of the turning earth.

May Jesus the carpenter bless you,
May you celebrate life together in all its struggles and joy.

May the Holy Spirit bless you,
May you dance with the saints and the angels in the wisdom and the wilderness of the Spirit’s love.

May your house be a shelter of strength and of welcome;
A laughter of music and stories,
Every blessing that your week is filled with the many people who make up the saints in your life.

Senior School Coordinator

Mrs Di Markey

QCS

Wednesday of this week was the last preparation session for QCS. Students will sit a practice Multiple Choice Paper during exam week on Wednesday 23 November. Students who are OP eligible MUST sit the test. Well done to the many students who have shown a great commitment to, and have attended all preparation sessions this term.

Exam block – Year 12
Exams for senior students begin next Monday 7 November. A reminder about exam procedure:

- Students will not be required for formal lessons during exam week, instead, private study should take place at home. Students studying subjects without exams are to continue work on their respective subjects. Students at school must be either in exams or supervised study.
- Students who have outstanding assessment will be required to attend school during exam week.
- Full College uniform is required whenever present on campus.
- If a student is sick and unable to attend, a phone call must be made to Mr McCulkin, ideally prior to the commencement of the exam.
- Students are to be at the exam venue 15 minutes before the starting time.
- Students are to ensure that all necessary equipment has been obtained for the exam. No borrowing will be permitted.
- Students needing to reschedule an examination due to significant and unavoidable circumstances need to make these arrangements with Mr McCulkin well in advance.

Students who have outstanding assessment will be required to attend school during exam week to complete the assessment.

Middle School Coordinator

Mrs Karen Lindsey

As we move into the final three weeks of Term 4, may I remind parents and students of the importance of keeping track of due dates for assessment. Assessment schedules were handed out to students in the first week of this term, but online copies can be accessed via the College website under the “teaching and learning” tab. Students will also have recorded their due dates in their College diary.

There are a number of strategies families can employ to keep their students on track at this busy and important part of the year. Checking in with your student on a daily basis as to where they are up to in their drafting or preparation is one such strategy. Assisting students to schedule their home study time around each of their subjects in order of due date is another. Students feeling confused or unsure of how to approach their assessment should be encouraged to email their teacher or ask for help during class. The Homework Centre is also available to students in the Library after school until 4pm. Here, students can be assisted by teachers and/or older students to prepare for assignments and exams.

With Semester 2 report cards coming out at the end of this term, teaching staff are looking forward to students working to their best ability to produce their best work. The first step to this is beginning tasks early and ensuring they are submitted on the due date. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Karen.lindsey@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au should you have any concerns or queries about your Year 7-10 student, particularly if the concern relates to multiple subject areas.

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

Year 12 School leavers
Best wishes to all Year 12 students as they start their final exams. Reminder that Mrs Munro and I will be available for the rest of this term to help your transition to jobs or courses. Current Full Time Apprenticeships are available in Parks and Gardens, printing and Graphic Arts, Landscape Construction, Baking, Sports Turf Management, Hospitality.

Now is the time to apply for holiday jobs
Apply now for Christmas holiday jobs; Super Retail Group (includes BCF, Rebel, Rays, Supercheap Auto, Goldcross Cycles and Amart Sports) has 900 Christmas jobs on offer throughout Australia. Myer has also started to recruit.

Retail employers are looking for employees who are passionate about customer service and retail. They also need to be available during busy times, such as weekends and late nights. If you want a holiday retail job, do a search for ‘casual retail jobs’ on job search sites such as Seek, Spot Jobs.com, Adzuna, Careerone and Job active.

Library News

Ms Nikki Carpenter

As the year draws to a close, we are preparing for our yearly Library stocktake. Can we please encourage students to return all Library Resources (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Quick Reads, Biographies, Graphic Novels and Picture Books), so that we can get stuck in to this important (and time-consuming) job as soon as possible! Borrowing has also closed for the year, and unfortunately, we cannot extend our loans period over the Christmas holidays.
Athletics News

Last week I wrote about the achievements of two of our students in qualifying for the Queensland Athletics team. Caleb and Tama have received awards from the Metropolitan East Association for their respective Age Groups, as well as for Most Consistent Throwers. This is a major achievement for these young men who are training hard for upcoming State Championships.

Futsal News

Training has commenced for the 2017 Futsal season. We would like to keep encouraging students who want to pursue the sport and attend the scheduled training days:

- Years 7 to 9  -  Monday Lunchtime in the Hall
- Years 10 to 12  -  Thursday Lunchtime in the Hall

Inter-House Basketball

Inter-house Basketball started with a swish which saw Year 12 Hogan House holding First Place. We found Tristan’s secret talent for spooking and keeping spirits high. Best and Fairest went to Alexander Meadley from Mary Rice House.

Friday, Round 2 had the Year 11 students sweating on the lower yard, and saw Carey House take out First Place.

Stay tuned for the results of the Year 10s game next week.

Inter-House Basketball is run by the Year 11 Certificate II Sport Coaching class as a way for them to gain their practical competencies. Come along and support the Jimmies Spirit!

Jimmies Climbing Club

Saturday afternoon was the last climbing competition for this year, Round 3 of the Rocksports Social Series Climb-Olympics! Jimmies Climbing Club was well represented by Bridget Aitchison, Jacob Forker-Freeman and Micheal Kuzевич. The format mirrored that which will be displayed at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 — Bouldering, Climbing and even Speed Climbing. Students climbed hard, had fun and represented St James with fantastic flare. A marvellous finish to the competitive climbing season for the year. Well done climbers!

Sports Quote of the Week

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

- Michael Jordan

Year 12 Formal

ATTENTION: Year 12 Parents and Students

As our Year 12 students’ studies draw to a close, it is timely to remind them that all college resources – books, laptop, laptop bag and charger – must be returned prior to graduation.

As attendance is variable from the commencement of exam block, we would like to request that all Year 12 students return their Dell computers and both the AC adapter and carry case, to the Library on Friday, 4 November 2016. As some students may require some flexibility with the return of items due to exam study, alternate return arrangements must be arranged prior to this date with Library staff.

We expect the computers will be returned in a serviceable condition showing due care and responsible usage of such fragile resources. If there is physical damage to the computer, we would encourage your child to contact the ICT Department as soon as possible, as this may be covered by accidental damage insurance.

It is essential that students back-up any content they wish to keep, using a USB flash drive or external hard drive (recommended).

All Year 12 students will be given a list of their resources along with a Finalisation Form. If, for any reason, all resources listed cannot be found, there is an expectation that you will pay for replacements. Once library staff are satisfied that all college resources are returned or paid for, your completed Finalisation Form will be signed.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Mrs Lee Bess, Librarian, or Ms Nikki Carpenter, Head of Library and eLearning.
On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she’d proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.

This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught her that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller’s earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn’t give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it’s tempting to simply give kids what they want.

“Dad, can I have a…?”

“Sure!”

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, “You can’t always get what you want!” Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn’t mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don’t automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It’s a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it’s a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That’s a lesson that stays for life.