Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

Today the College commemorated Remembrance Day at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year. It is a significant moment in Australia when, as a country, we remember those who have fought for the freedom of this country in international theatres of war.

The day itself originally commemorated the time and date of the signing of the armistice between the warring nations at the end of the World War I, and since then it has become synonymous, along with Anzac Day, with the remembrance of those who have fought and given their lives in war over the years since.

I often wonder how students at St James who are new to this country, many from war-torn parts of the world, deal with such commemorative days. Often what they themselves have endured is still very raw in their memories, with many having lost loved ones and seen terrible things that others among us cannot even imagine.

What we should be able to offer as a country, at the very least, is a place of welcome and safety, where they can find acceptance, where there are no soldiers patrolling the streets nor the sound of bombs heralding death and destruction. Sadly, governments still find this a difficult path to follow.

However, schools such as this one have a non-negotiable responsibility to show our young people that differences can be reconciled without resorting to violence or other harsh retaliatory or intimidating measures. Appreciation of difference and the positive understandings that arise from valuing what it means to be part of an inclusive community are both essential components of education at St James.

Restorative Justice is one such process that reflects these values and attitudes. Used extensively in our pastoral practices, the ‘RJ’ meeting engages students in a directed process of mutual understanding and reconciliation. It undeniably relies on the goodwill of the students and anyone else affected by unacceptable behavior to resolve issues. The results of this process are obvious around the school and, it is hoped, will stay with the students as they move into adulthood.

When we have taken a moment to pause on this Remembrance Day, we will have recalled those who have fought and died in the cause of freedom and those whose lives have been affected through the warring actions of others.

But perhaps we also need to spend a moment to reflect on those who could have made a difference but chose not to, on those whose didn’t take the time to see the humanity and goodness in others, or those who need places like this place to learn what it really means to be at peace with themselves and with others.

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.

You are invited to the ‘First Peoples’ NDIS Yarning Circle

What National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) information sharing for service users who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and their organisations and communities in the Brisbane region.

When 9.30am to 3.30pm On 23 November 2016 From Morning and afternoon Tea and lunch will be provided

Where C&K, 257 GYMPIE RD, KEDRON

Who Service users who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the Brisbane region and specific Indigenous service providers, and Potential NDIS clients who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the Brisbane region and aspirational service providers.

RSVP Please contact 07 3109 7027 or 07 3895 3280 or by e-mail NDISFirstPeoples@communities.qld.gov.au

Feedback from the previous Yarning Circle is available via this Youtube link. https://youtu.be/H0Q900Pvuv4

We have had lots of interest so please get in early and let us know if you would like to attend.

Deputy Principal

In the lead up to the last week of school for our graduating Year 12 students, I would like to draw their attention to the Words of Moses in Deuteronomy 30:15-20:

“See, today I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. If you obey the commandments of Yahweh your God that I enjoin on you today, if you love Yahweh your God and follow his ways, if you keep his commandments, his laws, his customs, you will live and increase and Yahweh your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to make your own. But if your heart strays, if you refuse to listen, if you let yourself be drawn into worshipping other gods and serving them, I tell you today, you will certainly perish; you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live in the love of Yahweh your God.”

So as our young people prepare to cross the Jordan, choosing life, we pray: Disturb us Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision to grow dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.

Amen.

Year 11 examinations commence on Wednesday November 16 and will continue until Wednesday November 23. Students need to ensure that they arrive on time for all scheduled examinations.

AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

Year 12 Graduation

These are the final details for the Year 12 Graduation Day. Please contact Student Services if you have any questions.

- 8.40am – 10.10am Year 12 Retreat in the Hall
- 10.35am – 12.15pm House Farewells in House areas
- 1.00pm – 3.00pm College Farewell in the Hall
- 5.30pm – 7.30pm Graduation Liturgy at St Brigid’s Church Red Hill
- 7.30pm – 8.30pm Farewell Supper in Church grounds

All parents please note that the College will put on buses to the Church from 5.00pm. Students are to be in full College uniform (including ties) for the whole day.

Year 11 Exam Block

I remind all families of the expectations around attendance at school during this time.

- Full uniform is to be worn whenever on campus
- Students only need to attend for their assessment
- Students are to be in the Library, Study Centre or under direct teacher supervision whilst on campus
- All Year 11 students are to be in attendance for the Year 12 Graduation Day from 10.35am

What Parents Do Matters

Please read the insert in the Newsletter this week as it is contains a blueprint for all parents to follow in terms of managing their children through high school. As a parent of teenage children I can certainly vouch for the success of the approach. The overarching concepts I believe that all parents need to follow is that they are firstly, the prime educators of their children and secondly they need to “manage” their children’s time. By that I mean, provide the space and environment parents need to follow is that they are firstly, the prime educators of their children and secondly they need to “manage” their children’s time. By that I mean, provide the space and environment

We have had lots of interest so please get in early and let us know if you would like to attend.

AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

Last week I enjoyed the very humbling experience of being part of the interviews for our Student Leaders’ positions for 2017. To hear the way that these young people spoke of their love for St James College and their very personal connection to the College let me know that the College is indeed in very safe hands. I was particularly struck by the manner in which each of the young people interviewed expressed their own interpretation of the Four EREA Touchstones and how they saw them working in the St James College Community. It was extraordinary that no two were the same, yet each brought their own special meaning to how the Touchstones spoke to them and how they saw them in action as a member of the College. It is very exciting to have students of such a high calibre move into leadership roles within the College for 2017. I share with you a prayer which we prayed for all of our Year 11 students last week.
“Strategies for Success” Seminars

In the January 2017 school holidays, StudyCrunch will again be holding the popular ‘Strategies for Success’ seminars. A two-day Senior seminar for students in years 10, 11 and 12 and a two-day Junior seminar for students in years 7, 8 and 9 are available. Three main areas of learning are covered:

- **Learning skills** that help students to learn easier and ore efficient methods of approaching study. These include organisational skills, time management, essay planning, note taking, memory skills, presentation skills and speed reading (Speed reading in 2-day senior seminar only)

- **Motivation skills**. A close look at how self-motivation works. Learn how to get motivated and stay motivated.

- **Stress management**: Simple techniques for relieving stress, especially important at exam time.

Students leave the seminar with the skills needed to improve their ability to study, improve their school results and make a success of their years at high school. Quality materials are used alongside films, group activities and lectures.

**Cost:** Investment in the Senior seminar is $410 and the Junior seminar is $260 (GST included).

**Where:** Seminars will be held at Q.U.T Gardens Point Campus in Brisbane on the 16th-17th January 2017.

For more information visit us at https://studycrunch.com.au/

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Powerful Spirit God, you guide us and light our way.
Bless our Year 11 students as they take on the role as leaders of our College.
Bless our community as we encourage and support these special young people in their leadership role.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord
Amen

Live Jesus in Our Hearts – Forever
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Every blessing for a peaceful week.

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

School based Traineeships 2017

Now is the time for students to be thinking about applying for a traineeship which can give them qualifications and paid work into a possible career pathway. There are many great opportunities which can help them develop their employability skills during their Senior Schooling. Please contact Mrs Munro or myself to discuss the possibilities that suit your career interests.

**What’s new at the Australian Catholic University (ACU)?**

A pathway to teaching for students without required prerequisites -The Diploma in Educational Studies (Tertiary Preparation) is designed for students who want to become a teacher but do not meet the entry requirements for ACU teaching courses: You apply directly to ACU for the Diploma in Educational Studies. Visit the [ACU website](https://www.acu.edu.au/) for further details.

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.

**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 immediately. As some students may require some flexibility with the return of items due to exam study, alternate return arrangements must be made prior to this 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.

Sports Quote of the Week

**YOU’RE PART OF A TEAM, SOMETHING BIGGER. WHEN SOMEONE IS SUCCESSFUL, IT’S GOOD FOR THE TEAM AS A WHOLE. EVERYONE IS IN IT TOGETHER.**

Sports News

Mr Scott Prickett

**Wednesday Sport**

The Year 7 to 9 cohort is drawing towards the end of the Term for recreational sport. I would like to remind the students to treat all venues visited with respect and to always extend good manners to the staff hosting our school. It is essential to leave behind a positive impression of St James when we depart these venues each week.

**2017 Sport**

Co-Curricular will be looking at promoting the games and activities of all our teams in 2017. I would love to see the St James community come on board with supporting all of our teams when their games and rounds take place. I would like to build up a great culture of support in our school, where the sidelines and venues are filled with cheers and support for each and every one of our students participating in co-curricular activities. This is an enjoyable way to meet different families within our College community.
Indigenous students, Brandon Norman and Kiara Williams (pictured in the centre), were among over 120 students who recently took part in the annual Graduation Ceremony for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 students from Catholic Colleges across the State. The ceremony was conducted at the Cathedral of St Stephen by the Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge.
**What parents do matters!**

There has been 40 years of research into parental engagement. A report done in 2008 for the UK government by Janet Goodall and Alma Harris was titled “Do Parents know they matter”? This is an interesting question. Do you, as parents know that you can make a difference to not only your child’s academic achievement but to their overall wellbeing by supporting their learning in the home.

Janet Goodall has put together a 6-point model of elements of parental engagement that have been found to be effective to support children’s learning. These elements all work together and are underpinned by effective parenting practices.

1. **Authoritative parenting** combines clear and consistent boundaries with practices that encourages your child to move towards autonomy and able to exercise self-control.

2. **Learning in the home**
   - expressing **high educational aspirations**
   - teaching **values** in the home- decide what these values are
   - making time and space to read and do homework- routines
   - **everyday activities** – discussions while doing household tasks or driving home

3. **Beginning engagement with learning early**
   - **Begin Early**- start when they are small
   - Kids need **structure** – regular bedtime, mealtimes
• The greater structure the greater they are able to cooperate with others, follow rules and norms, and the higher their academic development (Harris & Goodall, 2008)
• make it part of everyday activities-read, sing songs and nursery rhymes, take them on visits, regular opportunities to play with friends at home

4. Stay engaged throughout school

• although feeling less in touch with child’s learning as they grow older usually due to the increasing difficulty of the curriculum – it is even more important to Discuss the future, have high expectations and realistic boundaries, talk about school activities, check on progress at school (Clinton & Hattie, 2013)

5. Holding and passing on high expectations

• value education highly and pass that on to your kids
• what parents say and think about education has a direct effect on students’ own beliefs and actions (Harris and Goodall, 2008)
• have realistic academic expectations for them

6. Active Interest

• involvement with homework, attending parent teacher conferences, be involved in school
• it is more than checking homework, it includes linking what is being learned at school to other things and having set structures for study.

Have a great year.

For more from Cathy Quinn head to her webpage.

References:

