12 FEBRUARY 2016

Vol. No. 03

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

When I wrote in the Newsletter last week about the Year 12 motto for this year ‘Learn, Lead, Serve with Mercy’, I didn’t expect the beautiful article below that came my way this week written by one of our staff members, Mr Chris Zammit, to Dr Wayne Tinsey, National Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia. The article epitomises the spirit of this motto and the charism of Edmund Rice that is so alive at St James. It is a simple yet poignant reflection on an experience last week at our Brekkie Van outreach.

I just wanted to share a small reflection of an experience of our Jimmies community this morning that I thought you might appreciate. It’s not an ‘out there’ experience; it’s just an everyday experience of life at St James, really. A snapshot, if you like, or a ‘God in the ordinary’ moment.

I’m sure you’re aware of our highly diverse community - something I believe is the living example of a genuine Inclusive Community. This reflection is really about how our diversity has real ripples into our local community.

It soon occurred to me, as I was driving along, that the group of kids we had was a real microcosm of our whole school. There was Mary, a shy but independent Muslim asylum seeker from Afghanistan. There was Brandon, one of our House Leaders and a strong Indigenous role model. There was Thenusha, a dedicated young woman from Sri Lanka and of the Hindu faith who regularly fasts and donates the little she has. There was Raphael, a bright new student in Year 11 from Cambodia whose parents are Buddhist, but who is still working out his own faith. And there was Zeke, our upstanding School Captain who has grown up around Brisbane.

All of these students had caught public transport in the very early hours of the morning to get to school by 6am, most took over an hour to get there.

Many of the (mostly) men whom we serve are much older. I can only assume that they wouldn't normally have many experiences with such a diverse range of faith backgrounds. Before we’d even started cooking, someone had struck up a conversation with Mary about her hijab. We’d never had a Muslim girl serving these older men before. Mary was confident and very polite. She said hello to every person as she served them, as did the rest of the group. Brandon had struck up a conversation with a fellow Indigenous brother, and the others all engaged so politely and gracefully with many of the men with whose presence we were graced.

Whilst nothing particularly out of the ordinary was happening - I realised that so much was happening at the same time. Our presence in the community; the example of diversity that we were displaying; the opportunity to share this experience with our students, who each brought their own complex stories with them; was real example of what I believe Edmund’s charism is about. There was food, yes, but what was being served was so much more. And it went both ways - they were serving us as much as we served them, if not more.

I know that the message of Edmund’s vision has a much wider impact than just within our schools, even if it isn’t always associated or connected so explicitly. I just hope that it can continue to permeate the many parts of our society that may not yet have had the privilege to experience it.

Every blessing for the year to come!

Chris Zammit

This week marked the start of the season of Lent in the Church Year. While many talk about what to ‘give up for Lent’, I believe the message above of compassion, engagement, service and understanding is every bit the lived message of Lent.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Ash Wednesday

Deputy Principal

Mr Tony McCulkin

Teachers are often faced with the task of unlocking the potential in those confided to our care. There is no one way to accomplish this and what works in one individual could have precisely the opposite effect in another. This has been long recognized at St James where a flexible and varied curriculum has been central to educational services.

This approach has been confirmed in recent research. It is worth quoting at length from the conclusions offered by Carmel Ross (VOCAL vol.7, 2008-9, pp. 76-80):

“Those who work in secondary schools with adolescents may well have encountered many young people, more often male than female, whose predominant experience of academic pursuits at school has been one of failure and endless struggle. It is important to appreciate the capacity of academic failure to bleed into the whole sense of personal competence of at least some young people. Some will have the ability to see that although they’re not good at school work, they are competent at something else, so their confidence is sound. Others will take a view that academic failure is tantamount to total personal failure, and given the strong emphasis on academic achievement schools often have, this is not a surprising conclusion for a young person to arrive at. What vocational education, especially that which includes some kind of work placement, has achieved is to provide an invaluable opportunity for young people to develop a sense of personal competence in an area that is valued by others and hopefully by themselves.”

St James College has over 50 students in Years 11 and 12 enrolled in the Australian Quality Training Framework Certificate courses in which have a structured workplace learning component. There are other students working at School-Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships.

AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

Last Friday saw a magnificent gathering of the St James College Community at St Brigid’s Church, Red Hill, for our Inaugural 2016 Mass. The whole school gathered together to celebrate the commencement of the school year and the beginning of the year for our Senior Leaders as they commence their journey of leading the College for 2016.

The presentation of badges to all of the seniors and those students in formal leadership positions within the context of the Mass, reminded us of our Christian Brothers heritage and that of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. Our students are so fortunate to be part of the Ricean Education and understand both the privilege and opportunity of being part of such a strong and proud history. One of the highlights of the Mass again this year was the presentation of the 2016 College Icon which highlighted our theme for the year “Learn, Lead and Serve with Mercy”. Mrs Bronwyn Doherty crafted a magnificent lacquered cross which was comprised of pieces of card written on and decorated by every member of our school community. The cross is truly an amazing piece of artwork which shows the true diversity of our community. The ability of Mrs Doherty to plan, design and structurally put together such an enormous task is outstanding and on behalf of the community, I would like to thank you for putting so much time and effort into this project.

I would like to thank all students and staff who contributed so beautifully to the Mass and ask God to lead us through this next term of the Church’s calendar, Lent.

Every blessing for a peaceful week.

AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

Year 7 Parent Night

Thanks to all parents and carers who turned out in numbers for this important event last Wednesday evening. My thanks to Ms Helen Robin, Ms Anne Ryan and the P & F leadership of Mrs Margot Henry and Mrs Dawn Moloney who gave up their time to discuss these important matters with our new parents.

House Breakfasts

All families should have received their invitation to these events next week. It is a great time to get together as a House and welcome our new parents. The days are as follows:

- Carey – Monday 15th February
- Hogan – Tuesday 16th February
- Long – Thursday 18th February
- Mary Rice – Friday 19th February

I hope to see you all there.

Ministry News

Ms Jessica Whelan

I am extremely excited to begin the New Year and hope that I bring even more passion and enthusiasm than I did last year. Over the holidays, the service of students, staff and parents did not stop as the Brekkie Van kept running throughout the whole holiday period (including Christmas Day and New Year’s Day). Thank you to all those who gave up their holidays to help with the Van, without your support the Brekkie Van would not be able to run. If any students in Years 10–12 are interested in joining the Brekkie Van roster, please see me.

Term one is a busy and exciting term for the social justice calendar. This week the school celebrated the beginning of Lent with the launch of Project Compassion. This is a Catholic initiative where funds are raised in each of the homerooms to support those less fortunate than ourselves throughout the year. In the past, students have really supported this cause and I hope their enthusiasm will continue this year.

On Wednesday the school held a special liturgy to mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Sackcloth and ashes have been identified with sorrow and repentance since ancient times. In our time we are signed with ashes on our foreheads at the beginning of the Lenten season. Ashes not only sign us for Christ with the mark of the cross, but they also remind us of the fragility and weakness of human life. We are on earth only for a relatively short time and at our inevitable death our bodies will return to dust and ashes. Fasting and prayer and the doing of good deeds for others in the form of almsgiving, such as through giving to Project Compassion, are the ways we are invited to live our discipleship during this time.

37 Booties – ERA for Change

Last week the High Court announced that the Australian Government would send 260 people back to Nauru along with 37 young children to be consistent with the Government’s offshore processing regime, despite various Premiers stating that they are happy to house them. On Wednesday, St James, along with various other Edmund Rice schools throughout Australia, hung ‘37 Booties’ on their front fences. Each bootie represented the 37 young children who are facing deportation, an uncertain future and trauma. The solidarity and empathy that the students displayed towards this issue was remarkable. The St James College community’s clear and obvious message outside the school displayed that this was an issue we are passionate about.
Wednesday’s Brekkie Van

Junior Schooling

At the Year 7 Parent Information Evening this week I presented some information in a PowerPoint about academic expectations and other useful points both for those new to the College and those returning to commence in Years 8 – 10. This PPT will be available on the website for those wanting to review or access it for the first time.

This week, Assessment Calendars for students in Years 7–10 were distributed and time was given in some sessions to assist students to transfer the information relevant to them into page 54 of their student diary. Your assistance in checking that this has been done, helping out if the task was not completed or being in touch with me if you have further queries would be much appreciated. I can also assist you in being in contact with classroom teachers if there are issues of concern. My email is Helen.robin@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

Senior Schooling

The following comments have been taken from an interesting article written by Nikki Gemmell in The Week-end Australian recently. They provide some ‘food for thought’ as we come to the end of the third week of term.

Ah, grit. That magical four-letter word so beloved of parents and educators. Otherwise known as tenacity, persistence, drive. A holy grail in terms of success in school and life beyond it. But how on Earth to instill that magic fairy dust of driven determination in our kids? They seem either to have it, or they don’t, and a lot don’t – and as a parent I’ve no idea how to bottle the success formula. Can you instil a sense of grit at Twelve? Seventeen?

British education expert Mark Maclaine believes you can. For a start, he says telling kids they’re clever is never a good idea - because it gives them the impression they don’t have to work hard. Instead, students should be congratulated on their effort because in the end, that’s what is going to win them through as opposed to raw brain power.

Maclaine believes that kids should be taught “the malleability of intelligence”. “Research has shown that students who believe in a fixed view of intelligence are less likely to work as hard as those who see it as malleable,” he explains. Grit is about the ability to try again, and again, when things don’t go according to plan. “Great teachers use stories to inspire students: of how great entrepreneurs, explorers and leaders made many mistakes but kept going, only to succeed in the end. This is something that parents can do too,” Maclaine says. “Sharing their own experiences of struggle can be hugely empowering to children, as it helps them see the bigger picture.”

Assessment Schedules were distributed to students in Years 11 and 12 at the end of last week. These schedules assist students to manage and plan their time so that they complete the set tasks by the due dates. Copies have been placed on the College website. Hard copies are available at the front office.

Queensland Core Skills Test

Mandatory QCS information and practice sessions for students sitting the QCS Test are conducted on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00pm–3.00pm. These sessions are vital in order to ensure our students are given the best support and preparation for the actual test which is scheduled for Tuesday 30 August and Wednesday 31 August.

A letter providing information about the test was distributed to all students in the first week of term. All Year 12 students are required to return the form attached to the letter, indicating whether or not they will be sitting the test. Students who are OP students must sit the test; those who are not eligible for an OP may sit test. These forms must be returned by Wednesday 17 February.

English News

The teachers in the English Department would like to welcome all parents and students of St James to the 2016 school year. We look forward to students making significant progress in reading, writing and speaking. Our hope also is that students will enjoy their time in English through their engagement with texts and the learning activities surrounding them. The Term 1 English programs for all year levels have been posted on the Learning Management System (LMS) which can be accessed by students and parents through the Student Café. Also, students have received notice of the type of assessment due and the dates on which it is to be submitted. It is extremely important that all students try their very best from the beginning of the school year. The first piece of assessment is just as important as the last piece in Term 4.

Homework

All students will have received English homework by now. In Years 7, 8 and 9 students have English homework once a week. It is given out on Thursday and marked the following Thursday. The homework consists of a number of different activities and will be relevant to the subject matter of the unit being studied in class. The weekly homework will also include a spelling list. In Years 10, 11 and 12 students will receive homework at the teacher’s discretion. This occurs at least once a week. All homework will be written clearly in students’ diaries. It is regularly checked and if not completed it is noted in the student’s diary.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me or any of the English teachers regarding your child’s progress.

Mathematics News

RAMPAGE!

Rampage Winner: Congratulations Samantha Dix (Year 7).
Rampage answer from last week: E

New Rampage Question

Fill the blank squares so that each row and column contains all the numbers 1, 2 and 3. Use the given numbers and symbols that tell you if the square is larger (<) smaller or (>) larger than the number next to it.

Guidance Counsellor

USQ Indigenous Connections

Indigenous Connections events are designed to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to consider tertiary education through an on-campus experience. This year features guest speaker Keiron Lander, a performance by the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts, university sessions and cultural activities at USQ Springfield. This is a great way to sample what the university has to offer and learn more about the tertiary pathway. If you would like to register, or find out more please see Mrs Munro.

Women in Defence Leadership Development Day

This year Defence Force Recruiting will be holding a Leadership Development Day at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera to coincide with International Women’s Day 2016. This event is for girls in Years 10, 11 or 12. The Women in Defence team invite you to attend the Leadership Development Day held at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera. The Leadership Development Day will provide an excellent opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and engage with currently serving females from the Australian Defence Force. Attendees will be able to participate in leadership, problem solving activities as well as the overwater obstacle course. Spots are limited and will be allocated on a first-in, best-dressed basis. If you would like to be involved, please see Mrs Munro or email your interest to tania.munro@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

Mr Roz Ferris

Ms Roz Ferris

Ms Helen Robin

Ms Dianne Markey

Ms Corrie Shand

Mrs Tania Munro
**Canteen Specials**

**Lent In The Canteen**

As is our custom during Lent, meat products WILL NOT BE SOLD in the Canteen on a Friday.

The Menu will include:
- Fish & Chips - $5.00
- Chips - $3.00
- Calamari - $3.50
- Fried Rice - $4.00
- Crispy Asian Salad - $4.00

Students may place an order with the Canteen prior to the recess and lunch breaks, preferably in the morning before school starts.

For health and safety reasons, the Canteen is not permitted to reheat, cook, toast or supply hot water to any food brought from home.

---

**Guidance Counsellor**

Mr Jim Bartlett

**Year 12 Update**

- Career updates will be sent throughout the year to each Year 12 student on their school email account.
- If a student or parent would like this information sent to their personal email account please contact me at jim.bartlett@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au and I will add you to the list.
- Best wishes to those Year 12 students who will attend the QUT Explore Uni Day on Monday. QUT was the preferred University for the majority of St James students last year and there are great pathway entries to courses.
- Students in Certificate II Workplace practices will have this recorded in their certificate work. There is a special session on applying for TAFE and Uni.

**The following are National Skill Shortages as of 30 June 2015**


---

**Sports News**

Mr Scott Prickett

**Wednesday Sport** – Week 1 of interschool sport was an exciting round. Students competed against fellow schools in our District. All teams performed gallantly and whilst not every team came away with winning results, the feedback from staff was that St James students played with pride and great sportsmanship. I’ve no doubt that Week 2 will be another exciting week of competition.

**Basketball Round 1 Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Home Team</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Away Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 7 Boys 1</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Coorparoo SC</td>
<td>18-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 7 Boys 2</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Balmoral</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 8/9 Boys 1</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Bac</td>
<td>33-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 8/9 Boys 2</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Balmoral</td>
<td>20-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 9 Girls</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Balmoral</td>
<td>20-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Futsal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 7 Boys</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Coorparoo SC</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Futsal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 8 Boys</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Coorparoo SC</td>
<td>5-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Futsal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James Year 9</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Whites Hill SC</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James 7/8</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Bac</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James 9</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Balmoral</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St James 9</td>
<td>vs.</td>
<td>Whites Hill SC 9’s</td>
<td>0-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Confraternity Rugby League** – Confraternity training has begun with the trialling process underway. Students must turn 15 in 2016 to be eligible for Confraternity. Students who are still wanting to trial for the 2016 Confraternity Team must attend training at Bedford Park on Monday afternoons from 3:15pm to 4:30pm and bring the necessary training equipment with them.

**Jimmies Basketball** – Training is underway for our 2016 season. Students are encouraged to attend as many training sessions in the hall as possible. A training schedule will be given to all students in the upcoming week. Please don’t hesitate to contact Mr Prickett or Mr Byrne regarding any queries you may have.

---

**USB FLASH DRIVE**

Students and staff are able to purchase their own St James USB 4GB flash drive, complete with attachable black lanyard. The cost per item is $6.00 and can be purchased from Maria in Reception.

---

**P&F Association**

Last Wednesday evening St James College held an evening gathering for parents of Year 7 students in the Library. The purpose of which was to welcome families and provide them with information and an opportunity to ask questions about Year 7 expectations and operations. The event was well attended and Mr Crooks, Mr Wiseman, Ms Robin, Ms Ryan and members of the school’s Parents and Friends Committee spoke on a range of topics.

Dawn Moloney and I spoke to parents about the role of the P & F Committee and encouraged all to consider joining the Committee and attending our friendly monthly meetings. We talked about the benefits of participating in the committee such as meeting other parents, supporting the school and finding out more about its day to day functioning.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm – 6.45pm and drinks and nibbles are provided. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17 February in the St James Room above Reception. We would love to see some new faces at the meeting. We are looking forward to another enjoyable and rewarding year for the P & F Committee.

Margot Henry

(President – 0415 896 502)

---

**SENIOR JERSEY**

Year 12’s have the opportunity to purchase a Senior Jersey in their final year of school. This year the seniors will receive their Jersey in Term 2. The total cost of the Jersey is $75.

Students need to place their order and full payment by Friday March 11, end of Week 7. No orders will be taken after this date. This is the only time of the year that the Jersey will be available.

---

**2016 Queensland School Immunisation Program**

Since 2007, Queensland’s School Immunisation Program has been offered to students in the first year of secondary school. This year with the introduction of Year 7 into Queensland secondary schools, the School Immunisation Program was delivered in the second year of secondary school.

I am writing to inform you that in 2016, Queensland is transitioning the School Immunisation Program from Year 8 to Year 7. In 2016, all Year 7 and Year 8 students are being offered free vaccinations as recommended on the National Immunisation Program against Human Papillomavirus, diptheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and varicella (chickenpox). From 2017 onwards, only Year 7 students will be offered vaccination under the program.

Transitioning the program to Year 7 in 2016 will ensure adolescents continue to receive their vaccinations within the recommended age range (11-13 years) and align Queensland’s School Immunisation Program with other Australian adolescent programs which are delivered in the first year of secondary school.