Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

The end of term is now in sight and students and staff are looking forward to the coming break. While it has been a short term, staff have made strong progress on two significant professional development activities aimed at improving student learning. With funds from the Queensland Government through their Great Teachers=Great State initiative, the College has engaged the services of two consultants to lead us in these processes.

Lindsey Judd the Project Director for Accelerating Literacy Learning at Griffith University is leading a group of teachers from St James to act as literacy coaches for their colleagues. The whole staff were introduced to the project during the student free professional development days at the beginning of the year. After two days of in-service the literacy coaches were ready to talk to staff in subject and year level groups. To gather base line data on the reading levels of our Years 7 to 9 students, all students completed an online comprehension test designed by the Australian College of Educational Research (ACER). Students completed a PAT-R test and their results have been analysed and their individual needs identified. Once graphed these results were then discussed with the classroom teachers in English, Science and History. The project will continue with the application of strategies to improve reading performances. This will be followed by two more rounds of testing to check progress.

The second project is being conducted by Lisa McDermot from CPD for Teachers. The project involves the introduction of a pedagogical framework. The framework chosen has been The Art and Science of Teaching. After a full day with College Middle Leadership, Lisa has been conducting weekly workshops with small groups of teachers working on the question “What do I do to establish and communicate learning goals, track student progress, and celebrate success?” Lisa’s work will continue in the same format into Term Two as she focuses on the questions “What will I do to help students effectively interact with new knowledge?” and “What will I do to help students practice and deepen their understanding of new knowledge?”

This is the last newsletter for this term. Could I thank students and families for their commitment this term and the staff for their contribution to the learning that has been experienced throughout this term. I wish you all a happy and holy Easter and a refreshing break as we look forward to the return of Mr Crooks in the new term.

God Bless

Tony McCulkin
Acting Principal
National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

On Tuesday as part of the lead up to this day, we held a Community Conversation around the subject of how we treat women and girls in the St James Community. The Community Conversation is a panel discussion with students and their Home Room Teachers whereby the students are grouped within their Houses according to their age and gender so the conversation can be appropriately targeted. The panellists were made up of parents and former students of the College who prepared a presentation on the topic. The Homeroom Teachers then led a discussion related to what the panellist has presented. I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the school to the following people who very generously gave us their time for our students:

- Long House
  - Ireland Boyer
  - Sharnacy Faumui
- Hogan House
  - Ron Bomgaars
  - Alison Rose
  - Regina Tawa
  - Ceri Ann Peleti
  - Pagan Blight
- Carey House
  - Kerri Rider
  - Mel Tabulo
  - Isabella Jones
- Mary Rice House
  - Sharron Stapleton
  - Alison McDonald
  - Lucy Kennedy
  - Seb Barrientos
  - Mehitabel Douglas Drysdale

Additionally, I spoke with Year 7s on Wednesday on the topic of Bullying. We discussed what it constitutes, what to do when it occurs and how we deal with it. The College’s policy is contained in the Diary on page 39 if you wish to peruse it.

Exam Block

I reminded our Year 11 students today of our expectations around their appearance at school during this time. All of these are also contained in the Diary on page 30. I wish all our Senior students the very best for their upcoming assessments.

Finishing Well

I spoke with all our Year 7-10 students this week about how to finish the term well. We are very clear about this and certainly want our students finishing with a flourish rather than not earning their holiday. I reiterated to them the importance of engaging effectively in class right up until the last day (Holy Thursday), keep their uniform in check and being organised around washing and to keep their valuables safe. This means not putting phones in bags!!! All students are allocated a locker and we expect them to use it.

AP Identity

Last week I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying Aunty Thersa and a number of our Indigenous Students to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation Scholarship Ceremony. It was hosted by All Hallows’ School and the ceremony saw our own St James College Students perform the Welcome Dance as part of the official Welcome to Country – it was a very proud moment for us to see our students perform as they always represent the College so beautifully. The ceremony was made up of a number of parts and included some wonderful insights for all present, as a number of Indigenous Students, past and present, from a range of schools throughout the South East, shared their culture through story, dance, art and song. I would like to congratulate all of our students who were chosen to attend this special event including those who were acknowledged as Leaders within their Communities and others who received scholarships. I would also like to thank Aunty Thersa, who supports all of our students for the time, energy and passion which she shows to all – her efforts are very much appreciated.

Last week in the Gospel we heard the story about the Jesus teaching others about mercy. He was being asked to condemn a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. It was stated that the Law of Moses commanded them to stone this woman to death. Rather than defend a law which sat at odds with Jesus’ perspective, he responded to the crowd by making the following statement: “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” The response of the crowd was interesting as they pondered how at times we may be a little quick to say or do something negative to those who most need our mercy and compassion.

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has made a number of statements from “The Face of Mercy”. He reminds us that we must try to be and do as Jesus did when showing mercy to the woman in the Bible, Pope Francis states:

“That which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so are we called to be merciful to each other.”

As we move towards the end of Lent, let us all try to be people of mercy to those whom we work with, live with and interact with. It is not always easy as sometimes the behaviours of others might make us irritable and leave us feeling on edge however, let’s try to live what we believe and be known for the wonderful community which we are – St James College Community, a Community of Mercy.

Every Blessing for a Wonderful Week!
AP Studies
Ms Elisabeth Schaefer

The senior examination block began yesterday and so far the students are meeting the expectations around the examination period. Studies have shown that students achieve better results when they get enough sleep, drink plenty of water and eat a nutritious breakfast. Obviously doing this is important all year round, but it is especially important when students are completing assessment as it allows for better concentration.

Junior students are currently finishing up assessment items for the term. If they fail to submit a piece of assessment, a non-submission form will be sent home. Just a reminder that students need to fill out the finalisation form on page 165 of the student diary and get their class teacher to sign it when they have completed their assessment for the term.

Student Report Cards

Term 1 report cards will be sent home during the Easter holiday break. These will outline how students have been working in class throughout the term. The four areas your son or daughter will be reported on are: completion of set tasks, attitude to learning, behaviour in class and participation in class.

TAH News
Ms Louella Sparks

Year 12 Catering Excursion
It was a pleasure to accompany the Year 12 Catering Practices students on an excursion to Southbank TAFE last Thursday. We were given a tour of the campus Hospitality facilities to learn about future study options, and sat in on classes as varied as Bakery and Chocolate making. Next stop was the training restaurant, “66 on Ernest” where we enjoyed a three-course lunch. The food and beverage staff at this function displayed excellent skills which our class hope to emulate at our own College restaurant on Wednesday, 25th May. More details of this event will be available next term.

Science News
Mr David Tan

World Science Festival, Brisbane
Last Friday, a group of eight students from Year 7 attended the World Science Festival. Together with over 400 students from across Brisbane, they competed in the Green Heart Challenge; their task, investigate water security and come up with way to conserve water in Brisbane in the year 2100. They created a video presentation to pitch their idea to a panel of judges. It wasn’t all hard work though, as the students enjoyed some science demonstrations from Street Science and listened to a talk by celebrity scientist Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. All in all, a wonderful and engaging day out.

Outdoor Education News
Ms Casey Francis

Surf Lifesaving
On the weekend Zoey Plater (Year 9) competed in the QLD State Championships for Surf Lifesaving. This is a state wide competition with surf clubs from Cairns to Tweed Heads Coolangatta. In this competition there are thousands of competitors that compete in events such as boards, swims, iron man and iron woman, beach sprints and beach flags. Zoey competed in the U14 Female Beach Sprints along with a hundred other girls from around the state and came third, earning herself a bronze state medal.

Jimmies Climbing Club Reminders and Update
Our busy Term of training is coming to an end. Next week there will be no official Climbing Club. Students that are still keen are more than welcome to head down and climb at Rocksports on their own accord, however Miss Francis will be busy training our State climbing competitors.

Next week, Wednesday 23 March, a select few from our Jimmies Climbing Club will be training at The Rock in preparation for the State Climbing competition. The Rock is the venue where the State Climbing Youth Championships will be held this year. Remember to get your permission forms back to Miss Francis.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Miss Francis on 07 3839 4977 or casey.francis@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

State Training at The Rock
When: Wednesday 23 March
Depart: 1pm from St James
Return: 6.30pm to St James
Costs: $10
Food: Bring snacks and water as you will get hungry.
Where: The Rock – indoor climbing gym, 61 Sandstone Place, Parkinson

Guidance Counsellor
Mr Jim Bartlett

Work, Earn & Learn!
KFC is proud to offer School-Based Traineeship opportunities resulting in a Certificate III in Business. This nationally recognised retail focused training program and career development opportunity is available for team members currently in high school and over 15 years of age. Parental and school permission is required.

Gain a nationally recognised qualification at no cost to you. Earn points towards your QLD Certificate of
Education (QCE) and gain new skills and knowledge to kick start your career. Be recognised as a valued member of the work team.

A Job Search Site
SpotJobs.com is one of Australia’s fastest growing online job boards. It focuses on permanent and flexible (part-time, casual) employment opportunities. You can search jobs by location and working conditions, including the time of day you would like to work and preferences such as working indoors or outdoors, or in a customer service role. Visit the site at [https://www.spotjobs.com/](https://www.spotjobs.com/)

Year 12 QTAC 2016 Changes
2016 brings a big change to how QTAC offers Year 12 students a tertiary placement. Students will start receiving offers as early as 12pm on 18 November 2016, the day they finish school. From this year onwards, if a student applies for a non-competitive course, there’s no need for them to wait until January for their offer. They could receive their offer within days of applying. Offers for competitive courses will still be made on major offer rounds. The first being 16 January 2017. Over the coming weeks we’ll be sending out more detailed newsletters on what other changes are coming (as well as what’s staying the same).

Mathematics News

**RAMPAGE!**

**Rampage Winner:** Congratulations Ngoc Nguyen (Year 7)

**Rampage answer from last week:** There are many solutions to last week’s Q. Here is just one. $9 \div 3 + 7 - 2 = 8$

**New Rampage Question:** Find a number to replace the question mark and explain how you arrived at YOUR answer.

Sports News

**AFL** – Our girls AFL came away with a 22-22 draw against Loreto College. The girls are playing some great football and continue to represent St James with pride and passion. Together with continuous hard work and dedicated coaching staff, the girls will always give their very best.

**Term 2** – Term 2 will see a number of sports coming into play. Students will continue their respective sport for three weeks, and then Semester 2 sports selection will take place. The Confraternity Rugby League team will continue their intense training schedule in preparation for the competition which is held at the end of Term 2. Basketballers are working on their preparations for the EREA campaign which will also take place at the end of Term 2. Netball commences in Term 2 with St James having two teams this year. Both teams will compete at the Queensland Catholic Netball Cup in May.

**EREA Soccer** – St James have entered two teams into this year’s EREA Soccer Competition. This will be held at Ambrose Treacy College, Indooroopilly on March 29-31. These teams will compete in three days of competition and will play against other EREA Colleges around Australia. The draw is placed below, if you are in the local area please come and support the boys as they compete to their fullest potential and represent the college.

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Field 1</th>
<th>Field 2</th>
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<td>SLC vs SPA</td>
<td>SJC vs SPC</td>
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30th April

TOP ROPE DISTANCE CHALLENGE
Climbers will be teamed up and try to achieve the maximum distance climbed possible.

23rd July

BOULDER CHALLENGE
The gym will be transformed to have a bunch of boulder problems specifically set all around the gym, and competitors will be challenged to complete as many problems as they can.

15th October

CLIMB-LYMPICS
A mix of various jumping, climbing, and general crazy events and challenges

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