Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

Much of which happens in a school happens behind the scenes. The factual and overt experiences are visible in the classroom, out on the playground, before and after school, to and from school.

But this is not the complete story.

There is a dynamic that takes place daily that underpins all of this. Teachers are involved in professional study and development both in and out of school time and in personal time - on weekends, in the evenings - where they engage with academic professionals as they seek to improve the delivery of their subject area to students.

This is why the College is committing time, energy, expertise and funding towards putting in place the exciting whole-school pedagogical framework we are working on – *The Art and Science of Teaching* – that will reach every student, challenge every classroom practice and, above all, ultimately we hope will produce academic outcomes that will open exciting futures for all.

Teachers are only too aware that student engagement and high expectations for student achievement are bound intrinsically to positive teacher-student relationships, clear learning goals, sound teaching practice and adherence to procedures and rules.

But, in addition, they also know that a whole-school pedagogy, while it specifically targets classroom practice, assumes essential support from parents. Such support can take many forms. Some basic ones are: ensuring the student is on time to school and well-prepared; making sure the student is neatly wearing all aspects of the correct uniform; regularly checking the student’s Diary to keep track of school expectations in regard to classwork and homework; and keeping in regular contact with teachers by attending Parent-Teacher Interviews, using email and phone-calls to teachers; and so the list goes on.

Improving student outcomes is a target for all schools, no less so than at St James where students hail from such an array of diverse backgrounds. The challenge is always to provide the best possible opportunities for them – opportunities that are generated through rich and relevant learning experiences, exposure to realistic post-school options, positive social engagement and strong school-home relationships.

In short, it is a whole-school-community package, a vibrant teaching and learning pedagogy, to which we all contribute in the crucial educative process of every child in our care.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Deputy Principal
Mr Tony McCulkin

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
These annual tests will be undertaken by Years 7 and 9 students from Tuesday to Thursday the week after next. Forms requesting special provisions or exemptions need to be signed and returned as a matter of urgency. NAPLAN is an annual assessment of all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 across Australia in literacy and numeracy. It enables a comparison between annual assessments and is intended to monitor performance throughout schooling.

NAPLAN utilizes national scales to measure achievement in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in the domains of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. It does not measure performances in any other domains of learning and was never intended to compare school performances as the MySchool website purports is possible. Research has consistently indicated that 70% of differences between schools are explained by who is enrolled. It is not possible to make realistic comparisons without consideration given to such things as how students are selected, the ethnic mix, gender balance, school location and size. It is important parents are aware of what they are looking at when viewing these data.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Many thanks to all the families who attended the Parent Teacher Interviews last week. Staff certainly appreciate the opportunity to speak to parents about student performance. The contact between home and school in this format is vital. We hope the evening was worthwhile and encouraging and that the information gleaned is useful in those so necessary discussions with students at home. Any outstanding issues should be directed to classroom teachers or the most appropriate person at the College. Parents who missed the opportunity for any reason, are invited to contact the teachers at a mutually convenient time by telephone, or better still via email.

AP Pastoral
Mr Martin Wiseman

Trains
Another reminder to all students that they are to stand for paying passengers on all public transport. Thoughtlessness is not the worst sin by any means but it certainly does not paint the school in particularly positive light. I have reinforced this message at Assemblies so our expectations are very clear.

Year 7 Camp
As you may be aware, this Camp was postponed as a result of the Industrial Action that took place last term. As is the usual practice we will take some Year 12 students to the Camp to share the night program with the Year 7s. Given that the Camp will be in Exam Block, we are restricting the Year 12 attendance to Vocational students only. Those selected will receive a letter and a Medical Form in the coming days which needs to be returned to school as soon as possible.

Year 7 students have already received their forms which also need to be returned to Student Services as soon as possible.

School Photos
All students have received the information and payment packs for photos this year. The actual photos will be taken on 3 June but payment can be made anytime up to that date. The instructions on the form are very clear but if you need assistance or haven’t received a pack, please contact Yolanda in Student Services.

Late to School
Please be reminded that students who turn up late to school without a reason will not be permitted to attend class and will go straight to the Responsible Thinking Room for the duration of Session 1. This is to ensure that classes are not interrupted.

AP Identity
Mrs Tricia Parry

In this Year of Mercy, as declared by Pope Francis we are called to reflect on our lives and how our actions, however simple can affect those around us. Pope Francis says the following:

“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy.....The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope!”

Joan Chittister tells the following story: The Zen master teaches that one day Chao-chou fell down in the snow and called out, “Help me up! Help me up!” A monk came and lay down beside him. Then Chao-chou got up and went away. Point: To be merciful does not require us to solve anything for others. It simply requires that, like God, we stay with them in their struggles until they are strong enough to get up and go their own way along again.
CULTURAL NIGHT 2016
Friday 20 May
7.00pm - 9.00pm
Entry: $5 per person/$20 per family
St James College Hall

All in the St James College community, friends and past students, are warmly invit-
ed to attend this highly entertaining event showcasing the wonderful cultural diversity and talents within the College.

Come along and be welcomed by our very own Aboriginal Dancers. Be transported to New Zealand, Egypt, Samoa, Hawaii, Africa and Tonga through a fabulous variety of performances. Sit back, relax and be entertained by dancers, musicians and singers.

Complimentary finger food will be served by our Year 11 Catering students during the interval. Cold drinks will be on sale throughout the evening at the P&F Drinks Stall.

Raffle prizes are keenly sought with funds raised going towards the East Timor Immersion taking place in the June holidays. Prizes for donation may be given to Maria at the front office reception, thank you.

Businesses associated with parents of the College that may be interested in donating prizes for this event are welcome to contact event organiser, Erin Johnston, via email at erin.johnston@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au or by phone on 3230 8600.

It begs us to ask the question about how we act with Mercy: Was there a difficult time in your own life when another person's presence to you enabled you to "get up," to heal, to grow? Have you been able to be that presence for another – not solving, not fixing, just being present? Is there a situation now in your life that invites that kind of presence from you? Is there one way, today, that you can respond? It is a wonderful time to reflect and reassess how present we are to one another regardless of the situation. I believe that we do this every Wednesday and Friday morning at Brekkie Van and I thank all of those who extend their mercy to others in this vital service learning opportunity.


I am very proud of two of our current students, Ane Mafi and Esta Rarera who have taken up the challenge to visit a woman in Villa Maria of a Thursday afternoon. The woman is of Tongan heritage and suffered a stroke quite young and the mercy that these young women extend to this patient is a living example of Mercy. I thank them both for their selfless efforts, and to Mr Kubunameca who accompanied them last week in my absence. I look forward to joining them on this journey this week.

We were most fortunate this week to celebrate our freedom through recognising the great sacrifices which others made in order to allow us this gift. Miss Jessica Whelan crafted a moving ANZAC Day Ceremony where we explored how we gained the freedom of our nation. Mr Marty Wiseman gave a passionate and informative speech on the history surrounding ANZAC Day which had the students thoroughly engrossed. Students from Miss Whelan’s class then led us in prayer in a most respectful and appropriate manner. I would like to thank all those involved in the ANZAC Liturgy for their time, energy and passion in making the story of our history come to life for our students.

Every Blessing for the coming week.

Mathematics News

Ms Corrie Shand

Rampage Question: Thank you for the answers received for last week’s question, however as there were no correct answers received the same question is being re-run!

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

Automotive Courses

We are now actively accepting enrolments for the upcoming courses starting in July. We are offering two courses as listed below with the available positions in each. Training Days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm.

♦ Cert II Shoemaking and Design - 40 positions available
♦ Cert II Automotive - 40 positions available

University of Queensland

Students from Years 11 and 12 are invited to experience UQ's annual Careers that shape the world event on Tuesday 12 July at the St Lucia campus. This free event is a great way for Year 11 and 12 students to discover a range of career and study opportunities. Download the program to explore the wide range of interactive sessions available. Registrations will open on Friday, 6 May 2016. This year students will need to register themselves online. Registrations will close on 24 June; however places are limited and may fill earlier.

Semester 2 Bridging Courses

Students can register now for QUT's Chemistry, Physics and Maths B bridging courses in Semester 2, to meet the assumed knowledge for QUT courses or prerequisites for QUT’s Bachelor of Education.

These courses may also meet prerequisites for other institutions.

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Buy your Entertainment Book now and support our 2016 East Timor Immersion. For only $65 you can gain access to over $20 000 in deals and savings around Brisbane. 20% of all proceeds go towards supporting our trip to Timor in the June holidays. Both books and digital versions (for the smart phone) are available. For more information contact Mr Zammit via email at chris.zammit@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au or by phone on 3230 8600.

The link is: www.entbook.com.au/223j973
Middle School Coordinator
Ms Helen Robin

Term 2 Assessment Planners for student in Years 7 to 10.

Parents of students from Years 7 to 10 should be on the look-out from tomorrow Friday 29 April (Week 12) for a copy of the Junior/Middle Student Assessment Calendars. Homeroom teachers will be distributing these in morning homeroom on Friday and will allocate some time for students to review the information and add the relevant notes to their Term 2 Assessment Planner on page 82 of the student diary.

Parents could be involved by checking with your son/daughter that this has been done, helping out if the task was not completed or being in touch with me if you have further queries. 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

Teaching & Learning Support
Ms Anne Ryan

I am searching for anyone who has some regular spare time and may be willing to come into the school once or twice a week to assist with implementing a literacy program for students needing some intense support. Training will be provided.

We do need a commitment to a regular timeslot/s, as consistency is very important for these students. However, we do understand that emergencies can occur. If this appeals to you or a friend, I would be very keen to hear from you via email at aryan@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au. Please include your name, availability and any experience you may have. Many thanks.

Reading is the Key to Success

UNIFORM SHOP

As it is getting cooler, just letting you know that the Uniform Shop has plenty of jumpers in stock.

We also have Poly/Cotton jumpers for those students with allergies. As stated in the school diary, the school jumper is compulsory and is to be worn with the school uniform.

The school sports jacket is optional. Unfortunately, these are out of stock and the expected delivery is at least 8 - 10 weeks.

Should you have any queries please contact Mrs Lyn New on 3230 8695 or email lyn.new@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

Sports News

Interschool Sport – On Tuesday of this week our Junior Girls’ Basketball team, became South District Champions, beating Rochedale State High School 37-10. The girls adjusted to the windy conditions and played some fantastic team basketball. Well led by Chynelle Marama and Jana Tafua the girls worked extremely well as a team to reach this amazing achievement. The girls now head off to the Metropolitan Finals where they will be up against other Champion District schools in a knock out competition.

Junior Girls’ Basketball Team from left to right – Mr Scott Prickett (Sports Coordinator), Vagaga Leaupepe, Azaria Taulia, Chynelle Marama, Mariam Ajang, Jana Tafua, Ataria Walker-Tepania, Taniupe Leaupepe, Mr Kirron Byrne (Basketball Director).

Basketball – Last Saturday our St James Basketball teams headed down the M1 to play against Hillscrest Christian College in a full day of basketball. Jimmies’ teams represented their College proudly and even though some scores were not the best, a lot of character was shown by the students which bodes well for the direction St James is heading to ensure we are a successful Basketball school. The Open girls played against Moreton Bay Girl College on Wednesday afternoon, dominating the court and coming away with a 58-27 win. These games are great preparation for our teams leading up to the All Schools Championships.

Congratulations to Chynelle Marama who was selected recently for the U16 Girls’ Queensland Team and Jana Tafua who was selected for the Queensland Central Team. These girls represented outside the College and we are very proud of their achievements.

Queensland School Sports – Congratulations to James Gillfeather who has been selected in the Queensland Boys’ Water Polo team which will travel to Canberra in the upcoming months. James is a fantastic water polo player and we are looking forward to hearing more about his success.

South District Interschool Cross Country Carnival – St James took twelve students to the South District Interschool Cross Country Carnival on Thursday 28 April. All student ran exceptionally well and pushed themselves to their physical peak. Two St James students qualified to represent the South District Cross Country team, congratulations to Lachlan Plater and Asobasi Wilberforce for qualifying to Regional Level. These two students will go against all the top runners in the Metropolitan East region on May 17 at John Paul College. All runners should be very proud of themselves and their representation at this Carnival.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY TRAVEL REBATE

SEMsTER 1, 2016

- Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
- Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2016. Late applications cannot be accepted.
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Email: chris.zammit@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

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