Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

I heard a rather beautiful story the other day. It had been narrated by one of our Year 11 students speaking at a gathering of Student Leaders from Catholic Colleges across Brisbane. The theme of the day was to do with the experience of Mercy in one’s life, 2016 being the Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

This young man spoke briefly but poignantly about an incident that occurred when he was at our Brekky Van ministry that happens in the Valley early on a Wednesday and a Friday morning. He was serving breakfast to one of the men who had shown up for something to eat. As he gave the man his food, the man’s response took the student by surprise –

"You know how to feed my heart, brother!"

Whatever the service we provide to others, what is more significant is the quality of engagement, the depth of relationship that connects one to another. It is through these connections that mutual understanding, personal growth and life experience comes to the fore.

The process of education is precisely about this. Teaching and learning takes place within a shared experience, a shared environment, where the depth of connection is paramount. We see this portrayed, for example, in so many marketing materials of schools where the school’s prospectus more often than not focuses not just on kids holding schoolbooks and looking studious but on examples of them interacting with other and their teachers, playing sport together, having conversations in the schoolyard, and displaying the ‘joy’ of learning in the classroom not through teacher-directed instruction but through creative interaction.

One of the key touchstones of the Charter of Edmund Rice Education speaks of a ‘liberating education’, a quality and experience of education that leads one to see clear directions in life, the need for understanding and compassion within strong and supportive relationships, the provision of an education integrating faith with culture and learning, indeed an education that opens one’s eyes to see clearly the ‘hope to which we are called.’

There is a great strength of spirit in a person who can humbly say: ‘you know how to feed my heart’. It is very much about acknowledging the richness of one’s gift to another.

Perhaps this is the real essence of education: the interdependence of two like-minds - teacher and student - both learners together on the same journey; on the one hand, the teacher giving his or her whole self to the task of discerning the needs of the young person and responding to those needs; on the other hand, the student opening himself or herself to experiences that will enable them to grow in knowledge of self, understanding of their world and love for others.

CULTURAL NIGHT

Next Friday (20 May), the Hall will come alive with music, song and dance as students present their annual Cultural Night, a celebration of diversity but also our celebration of the unity of spirit that characterises this place. The show commences at 7pm. With a small admission cost of $5 to help us cover sound and lighting expenses, treat yourself to a riotous evening of entertainment, the likes of which could only ever happen at St James! I look forward to enjoying the evening together with all parents and students.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Deputy Principal

Next week there are some significant anniversaries of events important to Indigenous history and in particular, issues of reconciliation. Sunday will be the anniversary of the release of the Bringing them home report, published by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1997. This report not only provided the agenda for responsible reform in Australian Government Indigenous policy, it has provided an extensive archive of oral histories detailing experiences of families that were separated due to policies of assimilation.

Sunday next week is National Sorry Day. The first National Sorry Day was commemorated on May 29 in 1998 – exactly twelve months after the tabling of the Bringing them home report in Federal Parliament. Sorry Day is not just about expressing regret for past experiences, it is also intended to celebrate the beginning of new understandings. “Today we acknowledge the past hurt and its consequences, make a public apology for this practice, and promise to move forward together on the journey of healing” (Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, February 13, 2008).

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an annual celebration from 30 May – 3 June and is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories, contributions and achievements. The week is framed by two key events in Australia’s history which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation.

Friday, May 27 marks the 49th anniversary of the Referendum of 1967 that granted citizen rights to Indigenous Australians. This referendum was passed with the highest yes vote (91%) of any Australian Referendum.

On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that indigenous people had a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for Indigenous land rights called Native Title. It is remembered as MABO Day.

Indigenous issues are a formal part of the curriculum across St James College. Aboriginal spirituality is part of studies in comparative religions in Studies of Religion; social justice issues as they pertain to indigenous populations are studied in Religion and Ethics; indigenous history is studied in History and indigenous cultural achievements are examined in many contexts. Perhaps more importantly, particularly in National Reconciliation Week, indigenous perspectives are constantly sought and that their viewpoint is not lost in the clamor of louder and more powerful voices.

AP Pastoral

Mr Martin Wiseman

Study Habits

Please read this week’s insert regarding the setting up of good study environments and habits at home. Given the time of the term, it is pertinent to think hard about these things as assessments are starting to kick in and a revision plan for exams should be underway. It is a good read.

Leadership

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Mid-Year Leaders for Term 2. Marie Meurin CA, Azadullah Abdullah LO, Jessica Spong HO and Katana Wesley MR. These students were selected due to their service to their respective Houses and the wider Jimmies community in various forms and were inducted at the Edmund Rice Feast Day Liturgy last Tuesday.

Cultural Night

It is fascinating to notice the vibe of the school change in preparation for this significant night in our school year. Students are fully engaged in the rehearsal process at lunchtimes and after school and there definitely seems to be a definite structure and organisation accompanying the enthusiasm this year. I am very much looking forward to seeing the results of all this effort next Friday night.

Free Dress Day

To support the rehearsal process for Cultural Night, Friday, 20 May, will be a Free Dress Day for all students with a gold coin donation. Dress needs to be appropriate and we will decide the consequence if any student does not meet this expectation.

AP Identity

Mrs Tricia Parry

This past week has been one which has filled my heart with gratitude for the privilege of working with such a wonderful number of students and such wonderful colleagues. Last Sunday was Mother’s Day where we had the opportunity to celebrate not only our mothers but also the positive female role models in our lives. These people come in many forms but as well as mothers they may include grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, teachers and friends. It is a time to reflect on what and how they teach each of us and how we nurture the “mother” in each of us as we interact with one another. We give thanks to God for all of the special women in our lives especially our women staff in all areas of St James who provide such wonderful care of all of our students.

As a little personal reflection I love the way that my Mum seems to just know the right thing to say or do when I need her most and I sometimes wonder how she just had a sense that her gracious gift of being present to me was giving me the direction and reassurance which I needed to continue on my journey of life. As we know mothers are not only the people who teach us some of life’s hardest lessons but thankfully they are also there when we falter and they help pick us up, dust us off, give us a warm hug and then set us back onto the right track. I have lost count of the number of times my mum has done this for me and as I get older I appreciate even more the sacrifices she made for me and my family as well as leading the way with all of the things I needed to live a productive life. She also taught me what it was like to love, to be kind to others, to show compassion and mercy in all situations where I could and also how to be a joyful yet committed person. It is my sincere hope that you all had the opportunity to share some of your day with the loved women in your lives last Sunday in honouring them for being the hidden compass in your lives which set you up on the right and good path.

As part of our celebration of mothers, not only did staff and students visit the Lady Cilento Hospital School last week as reported, but we also visited the many women who are residents at Villa Maria Nursing who live in the facility just a short walk from the school. Mrs Jan Finch and Lisa Vongsarath led a keen group of students to deliver flowers and see the results of all this effort next Friday night.

I would like to thank Gaetan Gamba, Nieve Liveri, Ahmad Hakimi, Kelly Pham, Sang Nguyen, Ane Mafi, Midusha Kluenthiran, Thenusha Maheswaran, Nisar Bakhshi and Esta Rarere for volunteering to be part of this important social justice initiative. I would also like to thank the large group of students who assisted Mrs Vongsarath in the wrapping and preparing the flowers in gift form, their efforts were very much appreciated. The generosity of spirit shown is always so pleasing and the students represent the college beautifully. Mrs Genevieve O’Sullivan also assisted with many aspects of the venture along with Mr Tony Holloway who picked up the flowers before dawn for the visit.

St James College students visit the lovely residents of Villa Maria, Spring Hill.

By Mrs Jan Finch
Ministry Miss Jessica Whelan

Powerhouse for Leaders
On Monday I accompanied our 10 school leaders to the Powerhouse for Leaders. This was an opportunity for us to join leaders from schools all around Queensland to discuss their desire to succeed. The students had the pleasure of meeting Robyn Moore (the voice of Blinky Bill) as she discussed how she used her gift of laughter to shape her career and how she is now giving back to others. They then met Fr. Rob Galea from Melbourne who shared his story of how his anxiety and depression has shaped him to be the man he is today. Thank you to the students; your behaviour and presence was impeccable.

Mater Little Miracles Fun Run
Summer-Lee Hendricks and Jacob Forker-Freeman came to me a few weeks ago wanting to participate in a school fun run to raise money for an organisation. After much discussion, we decided to enter a St James team into the Mater Little Miracles 5km Walk on June 5. All money raised will support seriously ill and premature babies cared for at the Mater Hospital. This will be held in South Bank and it would be wonderful for families from the St James College community to join us. If you would like any more information on this event please send me an email Jessica.whelan@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

YEAR 7 CAMP MEDICAL FORMS
All families of Year 7 students are kindly asked to ensure that the Camp Medical Form is returned to Student Services by Wednesday 18 May.

TAH RESTAURANT
Wednesday, 25 May 2016.
6.00pm to 8.00pm
College Hall
Come along to La Concha Restaurant and enjoy a wonderful three course alternate drop meal cooked by our Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students. Relax and be waited upon throughout the evening by the Year 12 Catering students. The cost is $25 per head, payable on the evening. To make a reservation please contact Ms Louella Sparks on 3230 8646.

Mathematics News Ms Corrie Shand

Rampage Question:
Last week’s question is repeated. 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.

Senior School Ms Di Markey

Queensland Core Skills Test – Special Consideration
The QCAA (Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority) recognises that some students are affected by a medical condition, an impairment, or exceptional circumstances that may act as a barrier to their access to the test or to their demonstration of their achievement in the test. The QCAA attempts to minimise such barriers by making special provision available.

Students who have indicated their intent to sit the test in August were given the following information last term and again at the beginning of this term. The information has been taken from the QCAA website (please see below).

Are you eligible? You should apply for special provision if you have: • a diagnosed medical condition or an impairment • exceptional circumstances that prevent you from sitting the test.

What should you do next? Read the 2016 Special provision handbook available on our website (see below). Talk to Mr McCulkin who will tell you what documentation you need and the process that needs to be followed.

What are the closing dates for applications?
Before the test • Applications close 21 May for long-term illnesses or impairments.
Closing dates vary for short-term illnesses, recently diagnosed conditions or exceptional circumstances.
After the test • Applications close 30 September, four weeks after the test.

For more information: Email qcs.spc@qcaa.qld.edu.au or visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/qcs-test/special-provision.

NON-OP Eligible Students must return the form (distributed in Term 1 and again last week) to indicate that they will not be sitting the test by MONDAY 16 MAY. Thank you to parents/carers who have returned the form previously.

Preparation sessions are held every Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm. Attendance is compulsory for all students sitting the test. The focus for this term is the Short Response Paper. A practice exam will be held during exam block.

Debating News Mrs Karen Lindsey

Our three talented debating teams have been performing really well in their respective competitions this term. Last night, our Year 12 team (Sam Malone, Chanelle Johnston, Jacob Forker-Freeman and Jessica Spong) took on Padua College in a short preparation debate. They had one hour to prepare speeches in favour of the topic “That co-curricular activities should be taken into consideration for university entrance rather than just the OP orATAR results.” It was a very interesting and well-argued debate with both teams offering great arguments, rebuttal and points of information. Ms Ferris and I were extremely impressed with the quality of material from our Jimmies team, who have clearly improved immensely and are now formidable opponents. Whilst we notched up a loss, all four students were proud of their efforts as they should be.

The Year 11 girls team performed well in their short prep debate this week, too, debating in a “friendly” against afill-in team since their opposition had forfeited. Our Year 11s are up against San Sisto College next Wednesday night at 6.15pm at Brisbane Girls Grammar – we always welcome a band of supporters, especially any students who may be interested in joining next year’s comp.

Calling all Year 7s – the Year 7 Round Robin Comp begins early in Term 3 and there will be a meeting on Thursday 19 May at second break for any student in Year 7 interested in joining the team. There will be a Junior Training Session on Sunday 5 June at Girls Grammar for students who join the team.

Guidance Counsellors Mr Jim Bartlett & Mrs Tania Munro

Are you fit enough for the Australian Defence Force (ADF)
Many highly regarded applicants miss out on their ADF career opportunity because they don’t meet the pre-enlistment fitness assessment. It is vital that applicants continue to maintain an appropriate level of fitness throughout their application process. A ‘Get fit for the ADF in just four weeks’ guide is available online at http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/fitness/fitnessPlan.
CULTURAL EVENING
Friday 20 May—7pm to 9pm
St James College Hall
$5 per person / $25 per family
ALL WELCOME

Brisbane National Career and Employment Expo
This is Queensland’s largest careers, skills, employment and education event. It will be held on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 May, 2016 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The expo will include free career development workshops, a career advice centre and representatives from universities, TAFE Queensland, private providers, various industries and Defence. Keep up-to-date at http://careерemploymentexpo.com.au/brisbane/.

All Things Healthy Expo
This expo, hosted by the Ipswich Hospital Foundation, will be held from 10am – 2pm on Saturday 11 June, 2016 at the University of Southern Queensland Ipswich campus. The purpose of the expo is to inform participants of the health and wellbeing providers across the region as well as inspiring community members into health and wellbeing pathways through education and training. Keep up-to-date with expo events at https://www.facebook.com/events/542361785934713/.

TAFE Winter Schools
Please see below some of the workshops offered by TAFE Brisbane as part of their ‘Winter Schools’ program.

The Winter Schools provide a bit of a taste of the programs available as part of the TAFE at School program that our students can access in Year 11 and 12 as well as options for further study after completing school. It is a great way to test out an industry, sample what the TAFE has to offer and meet some new likeminded people this holidays!

Programs Available:
- Fashion ‘Grand Designs – Great Fashions’
- Acting and Performance – Film and TV ‘One Story to Rule Them All!’
- Justice – Drugs and Law Q&A QLD Police and Solicitor
- Tourism and Events – Overview of the Industry and Career paths
- Horticulture/Animal Studies
- Photography – Light Painting
- Hair, Make-up, Glamour Photography
- Hospitality – A Life in Hospitality
- Robotics/Networking
- IT - Mobile Apps
- Cooking and Baking
- Business/Marketing - Drone Racing Planning, Marketing, Doing!
- Cooking and Baking

This is open to students in Year 10, 11 and 12. Each workshop costs $20 and popular courses tend to fill very. For a full list of program activities including dates and the hosting campus, See Mrs Munro or send an email to tania.munro@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

CULTURAL \ COMPETITION

Sports News

Mr Scott Prickett

Interschool Sport: The season kicked off this week with all students beginning the Round One fixtures. Can I remind each student to bring the correct equipment for their respective sport. Students are reminded to be at the Hall by 12:30pm on Wednesday so the buses can leave on time, thus ensuring the full amount of time is played for each sport.

South District Trials - Monday saw South District hold their cluster. A number of our students trialled on the day with the following students selected into the next stage of the trial process:
- Jana Taufua - U15 Girls Basketball
- Didan Toto - U15 Boys Basketball
- Gonzalo Martinez - U15 Boys Basketball
- Mossab Kodi - U15 Boys Basketball
- Awan Awan - U15 Boys Basketball
- Omot Omot - U15 Boys Basketball
- Malyik Williams - U15 Boys Basketball.

Congratulations to all and the best of luck at the next stage.

Girls AFL - Our Open Girls played their Grand Final against John Paul College on Wednesday afternoon. It was a hard fought battle but unfortunately the team fell short losing the game by 4 points. The girls showed terrific character over their season and making the grand final is a huge achievement. I would like to thank Mr Greg Flint, Mr Ian Wardrop and Mr Mark Holmes for giving up their time to coach and assist these girls throughout the season. Our thanks are extended to the girls also for their efforts throughout the season and we are looking forward to you all regrouping and playing again next year.

Confraternity - St James confraternity team will be playing St Thomas Moore on Monday afternoon at St Thomas Moore campus, Sunnybank. You are most welcome to come and support the team. Let’s hope they can return the trophy to St James in 2016!

Sports Quote of the Week:
“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.” by Michael Jordan

2016 QLD State Lead Championships:
Over the weekend the stage was set for the 2016 State Lead Climbing Championships. Jimmies’ climbers woke up early to make the 7.30am registration in Parkinson at The Rock.

The action packed two day climbing festival included a national standard of competition setting, interstate climbers, Australian representative climbers…and of course Jimmies’ climbers!

This is the first lead climbing event St James has attended. Climbers had to combat nerves, fear of heights, falling and seriously hard climbs and they smashed it. Ezekiel Koch, College Captain, placed in the top 10 for Male Juniors and Bridget Atchison placed in the top 10 for Youth A Grade Females.

Alex Meadley put in a fantastic effort, especially after taking a spectacular tumble in the first qualifier then making a terrific comeback.

All climbers and supporters put in a fantastic effort. They should be proud of themselves for the way they climbed and represented their school. Well done and thank you to them all.
Natural smarts is not the only factor that will impact on your young person’s success at school this year. A positive attitude, a sense of resilience and a willingness to persist and work through difficulties will help. Perhaps more importantly, it’s your young person’s work and study habits that will have the most potent impact on the marks they receive at the end of the year. It’s worth keeping in mind that the study habits they develop in school also impact on their success in life beyond school.

Here are seven ways to develop healthy, strong study skills that will serve your young person well this year and throughout their lives.

1. **Establish a thorough homework process**
   - Doing the homework is one thing, but there are many steps in the process before handing an assignment in. Encourage your young person to:
     - Write down an assignment when it’s given orally
     - Ask the teacher clarifying questions if he doesn’t understand anything
     - Use a planner or some other organiser to plan his or time
     - Place his homework in a designated place as soon as its finished.

2. **Establish a Study Zone at home**
   - Choose a consistent study or homework space that’s conducive to working. Encourage your young person to stick to this space.
   - Some young people need absolute quiet when doing homework, while others work better with soft music. Contrary to the opinions of many teens, studies consistently show that loud music and/or TV are highly distracting to students. Don’t let your young person develop the habit of working in bed as this will make it difficult to go to sleep. Keep work and sleep spaces separate.

3. **Establish a regular study time**
   - The establishment of a consistent and specific time to do homework has been linked to academic success. Help your young person work out the best time for him or her to crack the books – before or after dinner, or both.
   - Encourage your young person to take regular breaks to keep their brain alert. Every hour – or whenever she feels frustrated or angry – she should get up and walk around, get a snack and let her brain recover.

4. **Establish a way to stay organised**
   - Getting organised reduces stress levels and improves the chance of success. Consider a colour-coding system to keep assignments organised by selecting a single colour for each class (like science or history). Use that colour for that subject’s folder, highlighters, sticky notes, etc. The colours will not only keep your teen organised but will also enhance his or her recall of the subject.

5. **Establish good time management skills**
   - The best way to help your young person organise their time is to use a large wall calendar so they can jot down study, leisure, family and other activities. The visual nature of the wall calendar will enable you as a parent to help them stay on track as well.

6. **Eliminate time robbers**
   - Many teens work inefficiently wasting time on mobile devices and other activities. Help your teen recognise time robbers and eliminate them so they can finish homework quickly and have more time to do other things.

7. **Conduct a regular extracurricular audit**
   - Take a hard look at your young person’s overall time commitments. Help them reprioritise their commitments if much of their time and energy is taken up with a part-time job, extracurricular activities, and their social lives. While it’s important that young people have interests outside school, it’s equally important that these commitments don’t overwhelm or impact negatively on their study.