DATES TO REMEMBER

February
Thurs 16  Interschool Swimming Carnival - 10-2pm Doncaster Aquarina – Selected students Yrs 3 - 6
Fri 17  Food Day
Sun 19  Opening of the School Year Mass/ Founders’ Day Mass / Farewell to Fr Mark 11.15am SJM
Mon 20  P & F Morning Tea  9am
Tues 21  School finishes at 2.25pm
       Student/Parent/Teacher Learning Conferences 2.30-8.30pm
Wed 22  PREPS’ REST DAY
Thurs 23  School Photos
       Helen Carboon ‘Children and God Things’ – Prep Parents and students  SJV  4.45pm or 7pm
Fri 24  Primary School Leaders’ Day for School Captains
       Parish Feb Feast event - 6.30pm SJM
Sun 26  Parish Family Mass  9.45am SJM
Mon 27  Camp Meeting – Year 5 & 6 parents  7.30pm Community Centre

Newsletter No 3– February 15 2017

"Seeking the Spirit
Learning to Love
Loving to Learn
Living Life to the Full"
Dear Families,

Well done to our preps who have begun full days this week with the exception of Wednesdays (rest days/testing days)! Fridays Clapping In ceremony and Leaders /SRC badge ceremony was full of spirit and well supported. Thank you to the parents who, on Monday evening, came to hear from their teachers about Grade expectations and practices. Thank you also for attending our information evening about Volunteering at St James.

Parish News

Founders Day Mass – Sunday 11:15am

You’re Invited – Come Along!

It’s time to give Thanks...

Come along to St John's church on Sunday 19th February @11:15am to celebrate and give thanks for

- the commitment, energy, passion and life Fr Mark has given to our Parish over the past 16 years
- all the Founding members of our Parish... Without them – where would we be?
- Blessings on our year ahead with it also being the Opening of the School Year Mass

We will ask for God’s blessing on all of us – and that we too contribute whole-heartedly to the life of our Parish as we move forward with fresh energy to start a new year.

RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST ENROLMENT FOR 2017

If you believe your child is ready to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in 2017 then please call the Parish office on the number below to make a time to meet me and to collect an enrolment form - Remember this needs to be done before February 17th as enrolments close and forms are due back then.

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to call or email me on 9873 1341 or Maree.OKeefe@cam.org.au

Congratulations

Our congratulations to the Van Vuuren family - Katrina, Mo, Kiara (Prep K) and Xavier on the birth of their son and brother Oliver, born on February 4th this year! May he bring you endless joy!
Welcome, Dispin!

Fr Dispin John describes himself as a team player who wants to work with the St John’s parish community to bring people closer to God. He is looking forward to spending time in the two schools getting to know teachers and children. Anyone who has been to morning school Mass in his former parish will agree that Fr Dispin is working hard to bring children closer to God, helping them to understand some of the mysteries of our faith.

Fr Dispin moved to St John’s after spending just under five years at Holy Spirit, Thornbury East and St Anthony’s, Alphington parish as Parish Priest. He had spent just over three years at Epping’s St Peter’s Parish as assistant parish priest but it’s his life before coming to Australia in 2006 that is really interesting.

Born in 1973 in the fishing village of Muttom, on the southern tip of India, Fr Dispin was educated at All Saints’ school by the Montfort Brothers. After school he moved to Mumbai (once known as Bombay) to join the seminary and studied philosophy, psychology and theology at St Pius X College. Dispin left the seminary before completing his studies because he was unsure that becoming a priest was what God wanted him to do. In the next four years he tried his hand at several careers starting with computers.

“I love gadgets and I love working on computers, so I got into hardware and networking. Then I realised it was not that interesting after all,” he said. After computers he managed a mobile phone business. Then he and a friend went into the textile business and exported textiles around the world. After this business he bought a chicken farm, fattened up 25,000 chickens every 40 days and sent them off to market. But after four years, still unsure about his future he headed home to Muttom. Despite his business commitments he returned to his study and completed his degree.

The decision to return to Muttom changed his life. It was 10.30am on December 26 2004 and he had ridden his motorbike to a nearby river for a swim. After a while he received a phone call from a friend telling him of the horror that had just struck his town – it was the Tsunami.

His home was destroyed along with most buildings in Muttom. Tragically his aunt and five-year old nephew were among those killed. All that remained of the life he knew was a shirt that his mother found draped across a coconut tree a few days after the Tsunami had hit.

“This day had a huge impact on me and all those who were affected by the Tsunami. There were 78 people from our town killed,” he said.

Fr Dispin spent the next year working with the relief team to rebuild the town. It became clear to him during this time that he did want to become a priest. He contacted the Melbourne Archdiocese and arrived in February 2006. He studied at the Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne and spent a formation year in Castlemaine and was ordained in September 2008, at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne.

“If I can achieve one thing it is to try and bring people closer to God. I like to work with people and listen to what they say. I would describe myself as a happy person and I like to share that with others. I think I have a good sense of humour and a great passion for life,” Fr Dispin said.

Dispin’s mother, brother and other family still live in Muttom, in India so he is looking forward to being welcomed by the many families of St John’s.

We’re looking forward to having you ‘on board’, Fr Dispin!

ARE YOU A WALKER? CAN YOU HELP?

We need some adults who enjoy a walk around their local area, to pop a card into letterboxes, advertising our Open Days. The area is large – any streets in the block with the borders being Terrara Rd, Canterbury and Boronia Roads, down to the creek. If you can – terrific! Please come via the office, or email Carmel. We’ll cross off the streets you can cover and give you some cards! Much appreciated!
Help!!

Can you deliver some pamphlets to a kinder to advertise our Open Days?

Please visit the office to tell us which one and we’ll give you the flyers! Spread the word!

Open Days are for 2018 students and their families...Can you believe it?!

9am & 10 am: Thursday 2 March, Tuesday 7 March, Monday 27 March, Friday 21 April, Friday 5 May

TOURS Evening: Tuesday 2 May @7:00pm

Or...Anytime by appointment...Much appreciated!

School News

Conferences – Tuesday 21st February
The first student/parent /teacher Learning Conference will be held on TUESDAY 21st February beginning at 2:30pm. SCHOOL FINISHES FOR STUDENTS AT 2:25pm and I ask that all students be picked up promptly on this day. OHSC will begin at 2:30pm on this day but normal booking procedures apply.

The Learning Conference is an important opportunity for your child to discuss his/her learning goals with you and their teacher. Thank you to parents who have sent back the hard copy proforma entitled “Getting to Know Your Child” to your child’s teacher.

All bookings will need to be completed online. Information regarding how to book is attached to this newsletter.

Bookings open tonight at 4pm.

Each conference will be for 10 minutes only.
• All P & F members – champion efforts in so many fields. Such attention to detail in so many ways...really looking forward to the CINEMA NIGHT!

• Special thanks to Suzie Mc Donald, who designed our new flyer to advertise our Open Days for prospective families!

**HAVE YOU GOT YOUR WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK? (WWCC)**

**Volunteering at St James**
Just recapping Monday night’s news about Volunteering. New guidelines have been introduced to all schools, as a result of the Ministerial Order 870 regarding Child Safety. We are committed to maintaining a Child Safe Environment, and also encourage parents, grandparents to be involved in our community. We will be rolling out the Volunteer process shortly, but importantly, **EVERYONE MUST HAVE A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK** available from [http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/). Within the next week forms for:

- Existing Volunteers
- New Volunteers

Will be sent home and these will be found on our website.

If you are an existing volunteer, and have a Working With Children Check, keep doing what you’re doing...volunteering! New volunteers need to be patient. Watch this space!

**Marathon Club**

Wow! What a fabulous start to Marathon Club 2017. It was a bit of a fresh morning for February, but that didn’t stop close to 80 students from getting up early and starting their morning by being healthy and active! See you all next week!

- Students must enrol, even if they have done so previously. **An updated Marathon Application Form was sent home last week and is available from the Website, under Policies/Forms**
- All students must wear runners to participate in this activity
- Cost will be $10 to cover breakfast (cereal and juice) for the semester. Money needs to be sent to school in a named envelope with Marathon Club written on it and given to the teacher.

**Wacky Wheels Club**

**What is it?**
The Wacky Wheels Club is a St James School initiative that began in 2016. The aim of the club is to encourage student to travel actively to school.

**Why Join?**
Once joined students receive their Wacky Wheel wristband at a school assembly. Once a member, every time your child/ren rides to and from school their classroom teacher will tick off their riding card which stays in the classroom. When they reach the milestones of 50, 100, 150, 200 rides they will receive a certificate at assembly. Once they have over 200 rides they become a life member of the Wacky Wheels Club. On Ride2school days your child will also earn bonus points for their house colour. Our co-ordinator for this is Signora Harry – rharry@sjvermont.catholic.edu.au.

**What Do I Have to Do?**
Sign and return the permission form that came home yesterday. **Please note:** If you child is not in Grade 5 or 6 they must be accompanied by an adult when they ride or scoot to or from school.
School Photos **THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY**

School Photos will take place on 23rd February. Photo packs were sent home today so please check the mail bag.

A ‘whole school’ photo will be taken on this day, as will Captains photos.

**Dress:** Clean and tidy as per school uniform guidelines

**Hair:** Neat and swept off face

**Online Orders:** To pre-order online, take your personal Order and ID Numbers found on your order form and go to [www.schoolpix.com.au](http://www.schoolpix.com.au). Orders can be placed online up to 2 working days after photography. **You do not need to return the order form if you order online.**

**Remember:** All orders placed online before midnight on photography day will receive a free 20cm x 25cm black and white portrait print.

**Manual Orders:** Complete your order form and return with payment to school on photography day.

**Sibling Orders:** For a special photo of you children together order online by 10am on photography day. Alternatively collect a Sibling Order Form from the office or download it from the SchoolPix website and return it on photography day. Only siblings that place an order will be photographed.

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**Curriculum News**

**IT NEWS:**

1. **PHOTO PERMISSION FORMS:** These permission forms are now overdue. If you have not returned your child/children’s form they cannot be included in any photos for the newsletter or class blogs.

2. **PARENT EMAIL ADDRESSES:** Teachers have created their group email accounts, so if you have not provided them with your email address, you might be missing important classroom news. Please follow the links from the school’s very first newsletter to fill out the google forms for each of your students.

3. **STUDENT USER AGREEMENTS:** These documents were emailed to parents yesterday. Please make sure each child completes a form and returns it to school ASAP. After Monday Feb. 20th, students will not be permitted to access any digital technologies without a signed agreement.

4. **ACCESS TO THE STUDENT LANDING PAGE:** Students can access our student landing page by going to Google Chrome, signing in with their school email address and password (please see class teachers if they cannot remember their password) and typing in [https://sites.google.com/site/stjamesvermontst/](https://sites.google.com/site/stjamesvermontst/) It’s a good idea to bookmark this page because there are heaps of great links.

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**FARM NEWS:**

**FAMILY ON WEEKEND DUTY:**

TILLIG Family

**EGGS THIS WEEK:**

HESS & BAPTISTA families
Sport and PE News
On Thursday February 16th, 23 St. James students will be competing in the North Box Hill Swimming Carnival. The competition is being held at Doncaster Aquarena from 10am-2pm. Spectators are more than welcome to come along and support our students!

In our PE classes over the next 2 weeks, we welcome coaches from Cricket Victoria! These provide will run our PE classes providing expert coaching and advice in all things Cricket.

Important dates for your diary:
- Monday March 20th- Whole School Twilight Sports, 4pm start at Bill Sewart Athletics Track
- Friday March 24th- Year 5 & 6 Summer Interschool Sports Carnival. Further information to follow.

Cassie Brisbane
PE Teacher

FAMILY WATER SAFETY PROGRAM
Are you interested in this – FAMILY WATER SAFETY PROGRAM https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youre-it-family-water-safety-program-tickets-29428519494

RIDE2SCHOOL
Congratulations to the 69% of our students who with the support of their families and friends took part in our first Ride2School Day for 2017.
The highest active rate in the junior school was achieved by 2D with 84%, 3P with 90% topped the middle school and overall (fantastico), while 5F achieved a participation rate of 87%. Well done to our participants. Active kids are healthy kids!

The official National Ride2School Day for 2017 is on Friday 17th March. St James will be taking part in this initiative on Tuesday 14th March, our second Ride2School Day for the year. It is a great opportunity to celebrate being active and making healthy life choices.

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Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrate birthdays this week – Jenna (2VH), Sophie (2D) and Mrs Carmel Foster.

Have a great week

Andrew Mullaly
Principal
Wider Community News

NetSetGo 2017
All children in Grade 1 are invited to join NetSetGo.

Cost $56.00 per child
Commences Wednesday February 15th, 2016
Coordinated by Bek Thurbon (contact by text only 0428 568 461)
Training will be on Wednesdays 3:30pm till 4:15pm at school

Please fill in this google doc to express your interest:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAO0q767fZAb2z7-Qt6RGtsN9gz5pOM2j0eN0KS9LiIgsgyq/viewform?c=0&w=1

All children will receive a NSG Pack from Netball Victoria.
Come and join in the fun, boys welcome.
Please read the following information regarding how to book your student/parent/teacher learning conference.

Dear Parents

Student/ Parent/Teacher Learning Conferences will be held on

**Tuesday 21st February** from 2.30pm –6pm, 7pm – 8.30 pm

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE Monday 20th February at 4pm**

Enter THIS school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

BOOKINGS OPEN TONIGHT AT 4PM

For parents that don't have internet access phone the school on 9874 1830. Interviews are strictly 10mins if you require more time, please contact your teacher directly and make alternative arrangements.

If there are no suitable times available on the schedule for a specific teacher, parents will need to contact the classroom teacher directly to arrange an alternative interview time outside of the allocated schedule. Parents can change their interview times any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on: 9874 1830

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.
Want to join the P&F?
Everyone is welcome to join the P&F. Come along to our next meeting which will be held on Tuesday the 7th of March at 7:30pm. If you can’t make it to the meetings you can still join our team by receiving information and meeting minutes via email. To get involved, email Jen Everett at jeneve1975@gmail.com.

Volunteering for the P&F
Volunteering for the P&F is fun and a great way to meet other families within our school community. Having mum or dad help out at an event is exciting for the kids too.

The P&F have made volunteering super easy by having a “Volunteer Sign Up Link” for each of our events. Simply click on the link in the newsletter and add your details.

However, to volunteer within the school community you must have a “Working With Children’s Card”. Working with Children cards are free for people volunteering and can be obtained by going to the Victorian government website www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

- Fill in the application form and verify your identity online.
- Check the email that will be sent to you with instructions on how to finalise your application at Australia Post.
- At Australia Post your photo will be taken at no charge to you.
- It generally takes three weeks for applications to be screened and the information to come back to the department. If you pass the check you will receive an email. Your card will take about two weeks to arrive by post.

As recently discussed, there are new requirements for volunteers that the school and the P&F must follow. All new volunteers need to complete the “Application for New Volunteers Form” and existing volunteers need to complete the “Existing Volunteer Application Form”. Both forms will be available from the St James School website soon.

February
Friday 17th of February
Subway Food Day

Monday 20th February, 9am
Morning Tea and Second Hand Uniform Shop

March
Friday 3rd of March
Cinema Under the Stars. Fundraiser

Tuesday 7th of March
P&F Meeting, 7:30pm

Saturday 18th of March
Bunnings BBQ

Monday 20th of March
Twilight Sports - BBQ & Raffle

Friday 24th of March
Lapathon

Sunday 26th of March
Vision Portraits

Thursday, 30th March
Food Day

Friday 31st of March
End of Term BBQ

All volunteers must have Working With Children’s Check. Please include your WWCC number in brackets after your surname when signing up.

Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Monday the 20th of February in the Community Centre. All Items $5
Welcome Back Morning Teas
Another morning tea was held on Monday the 13th of February. Once again, we thank the morning tea committee, Lynette, Nicole & Christine.

The P&F will be holding one more morning tea this term on Monday the 20th of February in the community centre. During this time the Second Hand uniform shop will be open. New hats and sports uniform (Grades 4-6) will also be available for purchase. We will look forward to seeing you there.

Icy Pole Friday
Every Friday of Term 1 is Icy Pole Day! For 50 cents your child can purchase an icy pole at afternoon recess from the kitchen in the community centre. YUM!

Icy Pole Co-ordinator : Caroline Gorry

Rebel Sport & Bakers Delight
You can help earn money for our school each time you purchase sporting goods from Rebel Sport or bread from Backers Delight!

Simply link your Rebel Sports Card to our school. Under the ‘Rebel Support Program’ we earn 5% from the total of your purchase price.

If you purchase bread from Bakers Delight at Brentford Square mention our school and a portion will be donated back to St James, through their Bunraiser Programme.

Second Hand Uniform
Did your kids grow over the school holidays? Donate any clean, reasonable condition and unwanted school uniform to the second hand uniform shop. All items are sold for $5 each with proceeds going back to the school. Deliver your donations in a bag to the school office. Please do not donate clothing that is not St James School uniform or uniform that you would not dress your child in.

Co-ordinators : Angela Bruni Ph 0403 553 202 & Jessica Chamberlain Ph 0407 536 384

Do you like to Walk!
Carmel is looking for “Walkers” to deliver school flyers within our school zone. If you would like to help please email Carmel at cfoster@sjvermont.catholic.edu.au

Cinema Under the Stars
Thanks to all who have purchased their tickets online or handed their RSVP slips back to the office with payment. If you haven’t already done this PLEASE DO!

The Outdoor Cinema night was a huge success last year and a great way to kick off our school year. Please be sure to let your peers about the event and encourage everyone to get on board and buy their tickets!! Word of mouth always works wonders in getting people involved. Event flyers and raffle tickets for our new VIP Gold Class Ticket package were sent home last week, don’t forget to send these back to be in the running to win front row seats and complimentary food and drink for the evening.

You can buy your tickets by clicking here www.trybooking.com/257203. Also, VIP raffle tickets are due back by Friday the 24th of February. For further information please see the attached flyers.

We need lots of volunteers, Can you help out? Sign up at https://www.volunteersignup.org/ABEF8

Grade 5 Champions : Tash Dumais, Nina Petruzzietto, Anne Almay, Kate Ryan, Louise Carrigg, Suzie McDonald, Carolyn Gorry & Jacqui Chalkley
ST JAMES P&F INVITES ALL FAMILIES TO ATTEND:

CINEMA
Under the Stars

DATE: FRIDAY 3RD MARCH, 6PM - 10PM
FILM: ‘ODDBALL’ WHERE: THE ST JAMES OVAL

"Oddball" (rated G) is the heart-warming true Australian story about an eccentric chicken farmer who, with the help of his granddaughter, trains his mischievous dog to protect a wild penguin sanctuary from fox attacks and in the process tries to reunite his family and save their seaside town.

**Tickets** $8 per Adult $5 per Child OR A Family ticket $27 (2 adults, 3+ Kids)

**RSVP** No later than Monday 27th February PLEASE – using the slip below or book & pay via this link: www.trybooking.com/257203

**NEW: VIP Gold Class Tickets Raffle**
This year we will be raffling off a Gold Class Ticket Package to one lucky St James Family! Ticket books will be sent out via school bags this week. The raffle will be drawn at School Assembly prior to the event.

**Food + Drink** available for purchase on the night: Popcorn, ice-creams, BBQ / Sausages & Hamburgers, Sushi, Bags of chips, Hot drinks, soft drink & water.

**The Oddball Game/Competition**
We will be running a fun penguin themed Game/competition on the night with some awesome prizes to be had! Please see next week’s newsletter regarding this.

**Face Painting + Glowsticks**
In addition to the game activities we will also be selling glowsticks and have a professional facepainter on the night.

**What to Bring** Picnic Rugs, chairs, warm clothes, insect repellent + torch. Money for food & drink, facepainting + glowsticks and lots of family cheer!!

**Please Note** Parking will only be available on the streets surrounding St James, not on the quadrangle. Entry via top gate. In the event of wet weather we will advise all on the day of the event via our P&F Facebook page & School Bag App if we need to postpone the event.

**Helpers Please** Our St James P&F Events rely on the help of our many wonderful parents. Please sign up to a shift to help on the night:
www.volunteersignup.org/ABEF8

**Got questions?** Ask any of our Grade 5 Parent Champions organising this P&F event:
Tash Dumais natasha.dumais@ubabub.com
Anne Almy watersanne@hotmail.com
Nina Petruzziello hairstudio3133@gmail.com
Kate Ryan kateryan0208@gmail.com
Louise Carrigg, Suzie McDonald, Carolyn Gorry and Jacqui Chalkley.

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Yes I/we will be coming to the Cinema Under the Stars. Please send this RSVP slip back with money in an envelope labelled Attention: St James P&F ‘Cinema Under the Stars’ Form & Payment before Monday 27th February. OR simply pay via the Try Booking website by clicking here www.trybooking.com/257203

Name/s: ___________________________  Eldest Child & Class: ___________________________

Phone number: ___________________________  No. of Adult Tickets ($8) ___________________________  No. of Children’s Tickets ($5) ___________________________

Family Ticket. Please Tick. ($27, 2 Adults, 3+ Kids)  Total Amt Enclosed $ ________________

We will need lots of friendly helpers on the night. Please go to this link here to sign up www.volunteersignup.org/ABEF8