Welcome to 2017 and new friends!

"Seeking the Spirit
Learning to Love
Loving to Learn
Living Life to the Full"
Dear Families,
With the first week completed, I think I am right in saying that it has been a very smooth start to our school year! Congratulations to all our students on their enthusiasm and willingness to give their best. Their positive attitudes and energy certainly have helped us get under way so well. May we all embrace our learning across this year.

Parish News

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.

Parish Feb Feast
The Parish Feb feast cultural food event will be held on Friday February 24 in the grounds of St John’s beginning at 6.30pm. Tickets will be on sale after each mass this weekend. $25 per adult, Children $5 includes soft drink and icy pole.
Also required are 2 or more parents willing to cook at the Aussie BBQ stall - cooking sausages etc. Please contact me if you can assist.

Education in Faith…From Carmel Foster (REC)

SACRAMENTAL READINESS

If you feel your child is ready to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year, could you please make an appointment with Maree O’Keefe to enrol your child by 17th February. Maree is happy to discuss this with you and can be contacted at the Parish house. (9873 1341)

You’re Invited
All families are welcome!

Please 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

In particular, we acknowledge the generosity of – Frank and Margaret Cronin along with others.
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.

SOME TERM ONE R.E DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
Sit down, break out your diary for these important ones…You’re always welcome to come along to…

- PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENT CLOSES: 17th February
- Farewell Fr Mark /Founders’ Day /Opening of the School Year Mass: Sunday 19th FEBRUARY @ 11:15AM at SJM
- “Children and God Things” Workshop for Prep Parents and children: Thursday 23rd February 4:45pm or 7:00pm
- Whole School Prayer Service Friday 24th Feb @ 9:00
- Parish Feb Feast Friday 24th February
- Parish Family Mass Sunday 26th February 9:45am @ St John’s
- Burning of the Palms’ Ceremony –Tuesday 28th February @10:45 –at St James(SJV)
- Ash Wednesday Mass -1st March @ 12:00 Hosts: Year 4
- First Eucharist Candidates: Parent Information Evening: Thursday 9th March -7:30 @ St John’s.
• Whole School Prayer Service Friday 10th March HOSTS: Year 3 @ 9:00
• CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK: “Moved by the love of Christ” 13th – 19th March
• FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES: Enrolment, Commitment and Presentation of Mass Booklets: Parish Masses - Saturday 18th March 6:00pm, Sunday 19th March 9:45 (Choose one!)
• Celebration of First Reconciliation (Sacrament of Penance) Thursday 23rd or 30th March @ 7:30pm at SJM
• Whole School Prayer Service Friday 24th March @ 9:00 hosts: Year 2
• Whole School Prayer Service Friday 31st March @ 9:00 Hosts: Year 4

From the Office
FROM THE OFFICE
We currently have an issue with our administration software, which our software providers are working to overcome. Subject to the problem being rectified in the next couple of days, the 2017 Statement of account will be sent out later this week.

This year it is our aim to send all accounts and receipts via email but due to the time required to implement this change, the first statement will be forwarded as usual via the classroom tubs.

CSEF INFORMATION
The Camps, Sports and Excursions fund (CSEF) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid concession card you may be eligible. Please see information later in the newsletter.

School News
Prep Clapping In and Leaders/ SRC Badge Ceremony
This Friday 10th February at 9am we will be having an assembly in the Community Centre. We will be formally welcoming our prep students, presenting our Year 6 captains and leaders with their badges as well as SRC representatives. We hope that you can make it.

Parent Information Evening – Grade expectations
Next Monday evening 13th February, beginning at 7pm we invite parents to come and hear from their children’s teachers about the expectations and practices. The teachers will present as a level in the classrooms. The session will go from 7pm to 7:40pm and will be repeated from 8:15- 8:55pm to allow you to attend two classrooms.

At 7:45pm in between sessions, we invite all parents to come to the Community Centre and hear about the New Child Safety practices and new volunteer guidelines- A MUST FOR ALL PARENTS!

The following indicates where each level will present
Preps – in Room 2 (Prep N), Year 1 in Room 3 (1D), Year 2 in Room 5 (2 D) Year 3 in Room 11 (3P), Year 4 in Room 14 (4C), Year 5 in Room 8 (5F) Room 6 in Room 9 (6 N)

Learning Conferences
The first student/parent /teacher meeting 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 Student Parent Teacher Conference is an important opportunity for your child to discuss his/her learning goals with you and their teacher. A hard copy proforma entitled Getting to Know Your Child has been sent home today and we ask you to send this back to your class teacher. Whilst all teachers have had a ‘handover meeting’ with the previous teacher, this information will also serve to give your child’s new teacher more insight.

All Student/ Parent/ Teacher bookings will need to be completed online. Information regarding how to book online will be in next week’s newsletter. Each conference will be for 10 minutes only.
Marathon Club
Marathon Club will begin for students in Grade 3-6 NEXT Wednesday, 15th February beginning at 7:45am and finishing after breakfast at about 8:30am. Students will run/walk around the school grounds before having a breakfast – juice and cereal.

- Students must enrol, even if they have done so previously. An updated Marathon Application Form was sent home yesterday 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 for the semester.
- Parents of participating students must be prepared to assist at least one breakfast duty.
- Thank you to our Marathon Coordinator, Teresa Satalich, mum to Charlie (6F) and Ethan (4C).

School Photos THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY
School Photos will take place on 23rd February. Photo packs will be sent home shortly; as soon as we receive them from the photo company so please check the mail bag.
Sibling photos will be taken after class photos and you are able to pick up a ‘sibling photo’ order from the office. These will not be sent home.
A ‘whole school’ photo will be taken on this day, as will captains photos.
Payment methods:
- Payment to the photo company can be done online or via cash or cheque.
- PLEASE ensure your child brings back their photo pack/money to give to their teacher ON THE DAY OF THE PHOTOS, not before.

More beginning of the year reminders…..

Holidays in school time….
If you are taking holidays in school time, you are asked to put this in writing to both the classroom teachers and cc myself and office. If holidaying for more than 5 days you will be asked to complete a Holiday Plan, outlining simple ways that you will be involving students in some engaging learning activities. Please be aware that students on holidays will naturally miss some of the learning concepts that take place at school. Do not ask the teacher to provide your child with worksheets or books.

Parking and Road safety
As we begin the New Year, in the interests of community safety please be careful and considerate to everyone when dropping off and picking up students. Please ensure that you obey parking signs and time limits.
In particular:
- please use the crossing in Centre Road and
- do not double park, make U-turns, park over driveways.
- do not park in front of our neighbours bins
- Please check carefully when reversing...
- Council officers will patrol the area (Centre Road, Frank Street and surrounding streets) from time to time and will enforce infringement notices if they see fit.

Anaphylaxis
At St James, we have adopted a food awareness approach. We have several students across the school who are anaphylactic and have life threatening reactions to foods. We have several students who are anaphylactic to peanuts/ tree nuts so in the interest of student safety we discourage you from bringing any nut products to school. If your child brings nut products in their snack or lunch. This must be declared to the class teacher each and every time. Please remind your children that they are not to share food or drink bottles at any time.

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!
**Student Banking (Catholic Development Fund)**
Student banking will normally take place on **Tuesdays**. Students bring their bank books and place these in the class tubs which will be sent to the office. Bank books will be returned after they have been processed. Thank you to Lucy Savioa who runs the school banking for us. Application forms are available at the school office.

**Icy poles Day**
Icy Poles will be on sale each **Friday** at the **2pm recess**. Students are able to bring 50c. Students are not to buy icypoles for their friends.

**Curriculum News**

“**Learning to Love, Loving to Learn**”

St James’ vision statement includes the phrase ‘**Learning to Love, Loving to Learn**’. This will form the basis for the school wide inquiry in Term 1. Each year level will focus on the Personal and Social Capability and Health and P.E. dimensions of the Victorian Curriculum. The students will be exploring the key concepts of visible learning, belonging, connectedness, respect, growth mindset, rules, rights and responsibilities.

Students will unpack what a visible learner looks like and reflect on how they learn best. St James will be adopting Kath Murdoch’s ‘**Learning Assets framework**’ to support students in developing the skills and dispositions required in contemporary learning. The assets of researching, thinking, collaborating, self-managing and communicating are defined by three skills or dispositions (see below) which students will reflect on as they set learning goals for themselves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Asset</th>
<th>Skills or Dispositions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCHERS</td>
<td>curious, courageous, resourceful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLABORATORS</td>
<td>empathetic, compassionate, reliable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THINKERS</td>
<td>open-minded, flexible, persistent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELF-MANAGERS</td>
<td>resilient, responsible, reflective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATORS</td>
<td>confident, responsive, respectable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This inquiry focus will continue throughout the year as the students will always need to use these skills and dispositions to be active, visible learners.

**IT NEWS:**

1. **PHOTO PERMISSION FORMS**: Need to be returned by Friday.
2. **PARENT EMAIL ADDRESSES**: Please follow the links in this newsletter to fill out the google forms for each of your students ASAP. Teachers are ready to create their group emails.
A reminder that St James offers the services of a counsellor. The service is completely confidential and if a child qualifies under Medicare guidelines, sessions are fully covered by Medicare. If you feel this service may be of value to your child please contact me or your child’s classroom teacher to arrange a form with details regarding the next step in the process. It requires a form to be filled out by a GP in order to make Medicare claims. You can refer to the website for more detailed information on this service-onpsych.com.au or contact me.

Students who were seen last year or in previous years may be eligible for another series of sessions fully covered by Medicare.

If you feel your child would continue to benefit, please fill in the required slip below and return to the Office.

Seasons is a grief and loss peer support program offered by the school to help students cope with the grief and feelings of loss resulting from separation, divorce, life threatening illness or death of a loved one. It is delivered over ten weeks in small groups and run by trained facilitators within class time. If you feel your child would benefit or you would like further information, please complete the slip below and return it to the Office.

Jacqui Porritt
Student Wellbeing Leader

ONPSYCH SERVICE

I would be interested in using this service by the school for my child.

Name _______________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – SEASONS PROGRAM

I would like my child/children ________________________________ to be involved in the Seasons program.

Signature ______________________________________
FARM NEWS:
WE ARE REALLY DESPERATE FOR HELPERS THIS TERM!!!

1. If you would like to have a turn at caring for the animals on a weekend, please email wephgrave@silvermont.catholic.edu.au. Let me know if there are any particular weekends when you are not available. Keys and instructions come home on a Friday night. New families most welcome! IT’S FUN!

2. EGGS FOR SALE: Eggs are $3.00 per half dozen. Send your money in an envelope to Wendy in the Resource Centre. (Make sure you put the name and grade of the child I need to deliver eggs to!)

FAMILY ON WEEKEND DUTY:
GEE Family
EGGS THIS WEEK:
Piper family

This week, it was SAFER INTERNET DAY. St James students are uniting to make a better internet:
Year 3-6 students are going to THINK BEFORE THEY POST.
Prep-2 students are going to:
KEEP PASSWORDS AND PERSONAL DETAILS PRIVATE!

How very eSmart!!!

Poster from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

Acrostic poem by Year 4 students.
Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrate birthdays this week – Julia (6N), James (6N), Sarah (4C), Lewis (1D), Sam (SO), Sherise (PN), Nikki (PK), William (1D), Mr Andrew Mullaly and Mrs Anne Gleeson.

Have a great week
Andrew Mullaly
Principal

Community News

UNIFORM SHOP
Sports uniform items and/or 2nd hand items may be purchased in the Community centre on Monday morning, FEB 20th from 8:30-9:15. Orders sent in via the office will also be filled on this day and returned in class tubs.
Enquiries: Janine Sexton 0408 992 537 (Sports Uniform)
Angela Bruni 0403 553 202 or Jessica Chamberlain 0407 536 384 (2nd hand uniform)

SIGN UP NOW FOR MUSIC LESSONS 2017

Dear Parents and students,

Instrumental music lessons will commence from Week 3 of term 1. 2017 lesson options include keyboard, guitar, violin, cello, sax, clarinet, flute and trumpet with classes taking place at the school throughout the week.

Students wishing to participate in any of these programs may collect an information brochure from the school office.
Further information about the programs including the new online enrolment process may be found at www.onlinemusicsolutions.com.au
All families will receive a message close to the lesson commencement date to confirm their lesson time.
For further information Phone – 9874 6667 or email cms@bigpond.net.au

Wider Community News

VERMONT VULTURES BASKETBALL CLUB

are now taking registrations for Winter season 2017

Competitions available:
Saturday – (GIBC) Mixed U8, Boys/Girls U10/U12/U14/U16/U18
Monday – Mixed U8, Boys/Girls U10
Tuesday – Girls U12/U14
Wednesday – Girls U14
Thursday – Girls U12

Registration Night Friday 10th February 2017 at Narwee Bowling Club

For enquires, please contact Nikki Fennis on 0409 746 224.
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

> School, free push notification alerts
> School events
> School newsletters
> School documents
> School RSS feeds
> School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone Users**

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

After the app is installed on your phone, make sure that you select “OK” to allow push notifications. Also click on “more” then “Setup” and select which categories you would like to receive push notifications for.

**Android Users**

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

After the app is installed click on “more” then “Setup” and select which categories you would like to receive push notifications for.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! Like

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
Its the start of another busy year with the St James Parents and Friends association. We welcome everyone within the St James community to our meetings and to help out with up coming events.

Volunteers are always required. Our newsletters contain clickable links! If you would like to help out please click the corresponding link and fill in your details.

**Food Day**

Friday 17th of February is food day!
A nice treat for our kids and a day off from making lunches for mum and dad. Subway envelopes were sent home last week. Please fill in and return your order with correct money by this Friday the 10th of February.

Two helpers are still required to deliver orders at 10:40am. Please sign up at [http://volunteersignup.org/CLDPH](http://volunteersignup.org/CLDPH)

Food Day Co-ordinator : Kylie Brooks-Verberne Ph 0403 976 575
Welcome Back Morning Teas

On Wednesday the 1st of February we welcomed back our new and returning students from Grade 1 to Grade 6. Then on Friday we welcomed our beautiful preppies. We thank the morning tea committee and their helpers, Lynette, Nicole, Christine, Katie, Sandra, Ang, Sheleigh and Suzie for a job well done.

The P&F will be holding morning tea on both the 13th and 20th of February in the community centre. We will look forward to seeing you there.

Morning Tea Co-ordinators : Nicole Spezza, Lynette Ryan and Christine Lagos
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
katelyan0208@gmail.com

Louise Carrigg, Suzie McDonald, Carolyn Gorry and Jacqui Chalkley.

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
Our P&F Cinema Under the Stars is happening on Friday 3rd March. We will be screening a fantastic Australian film 'Oddball' (rated G), see our invitation flyer sent home for more details. Get your tickets at: www.trybooking.com/257203
This year we are raffling off a VIP Gold Class ticket prize package to one lucky family at St James!

**Prize Package Includes:**
- VIP Family Movie Tickets
- Gold Class Front Row Seats
- Free food & drinks!

**How to enter:** Purchase tickets for $2 each. Return your ticket stubs with correct money (name and phone number written on each ticket stub) to school in an envelope labelled 'P&F Gold Ticket Raffle'.

**Class Ticket Raffle**
**RSVP** By Friday 24th February
To be drawn at Assembly prior to Event.
**Note:** Please purchase your tickets as usual for this event. Should you be the winning family we will refund your ticket purchase amount.

**Got Questions?**
Tash Dumais 0411 090 657
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef