

# St James Updates

Term 1 Week 9

*'St James School Community is committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards.'*

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support, understanding and flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's certainly a time that tests our resilience and core values. It's been most pleasing to observe first hand, many St James families lending a helping hand to others in need.

Thanks also to the many families who have sent messages of support to our staff who have been doing an excellent job in keeping school as 'normal' and calm for our students.

Please remember that while announcements are often made in the media, the full implications for schools are not always outlined. Consequently, we are often waiting on clarification before sending home information to families.

## Home Learning

As you would be aware, we commenced preparations for Home Learning last week and have a number of things on the go should that eventuate next term. We are very confident with the position St James is in to provide high quality learning for our students at home should this need arise next term. As a precaution, we will be sending home some "Home Learning" essentials with your child today (pencil cases, exercise books, wellbeing journals, reading logs, etc). We are also assembling a pack of these goodies for students who are absent today to be collected next term if required (details regarding the collection of these will be sent out on the first day back next term).

## Learning Conferences

Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel our Learning Conferences for this term. In place of the three way Learning Conferences at school, we will ask students to share their reflection on their learning sheet with you. These will be available in your child's google drive from tomorrow, Tuesday afternoon. We ask that parents have a conversation with your children about their accomplishments and future learning. Your child should be able to explain this to you and discuss their learning with you. We ask that parents type a comment about this discussion and we will print this off and keep it in their student file.

Should you wish to elaborate on this or have a discussion, (possibly by phone) with your child's teacher please email them and we will organise a time for this to occur early next term.

**Following a directive from the Archdiocese, all Parish Sacramental programs are to be postponed until the pandemic is over. We will therefore not go ahead with any preparation or celebration of First Eucharist, Home Masses or Confirmation until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and stay well.**

**Maree O'Keefe.**

## Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following families

Hurley family – Louise, Cameron, Spencer and Angus on the sudden passing of Paul Hay – brother and uncle.

Said family – Paul, Ann-Maree, Sarah, Lucas and Patrick on the death of Carol Said – mother and grandmother.

May they rest in peace.

## Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who received a 'Student of the Week' award:

Dylan (4D), Cooper (4D), Elijah (3J), Kiara (3J), Jessica (3J), Quinn (3F), Tom (3F),

Sam (6B), Ben (1C), Natalie (2S), Henry (2S).

**CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)** 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 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. Please contact the office for more information.



Here's a few important dates to note:

**Tuesday 24 March** Learning Conferences 3.30pm – 5.00pm - **CANCELLED**

**Wednesday 25 March** Learning Conferences 2.30pm – 8pm - **CANCELLED**

**WEDNESDAY 15 April** **Term 2 begins**

P & F Morning Tea 9am

**Saturday 18 April** First Eucharist Medal Presentation and Mass 6pm @ SJM - **CANCELLED**

**Sunday 19 April** First Eucharist Medal Presentation and Mass 11.15am @ SJM - **CANCELLED**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** School Closure Day – Staff Professional Development

### Achievements

Congratulations to Leroy (5E) and Alfred (3F) who played in their very first Grand Final for Eastern Region Junior tennis competition. It was a close match and the boys along with their teammates came runners up.



### P & F Cinema Night Raffle

The winners of the P & F raffle are: Bufalino family and Gomez family. Congratulations! Their prizes are movie and meal vouchers to be used when such social venues are reopened. Thanks to the P&F Cinema Night champions and raffle team who put so much time and effort into organising this.

Our colouring competition winners were:

K/P/1 Adele Mitchell

2/3/4 Tilliana Bobilak

5/6 Maria Skaliotis



## Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and St. James School is excited to be participating. A new application is being used this year that offers a range of exciting features including:

- access to a library catalogue (including book images and blurbs)
- a modern user-friendly interface
- rewarding students with badges as challenge milestones are achieved
- the option for students to mark books as a favourite, give them a star rating or complete a book review

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 4 September 2020. We ask that you have all of your books recorded by Monday 31st August so that they may be verified in time for the closing date.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc)

Your child's teacher has/will provide your child with their log in details. Go to this link [Student Log In](#) to access all resources that you will need. Follow this pathway - *School Log In* followed by *VPRC Log In*. Remember to continue to record the great books that you have read, and of course, have fun!

## **PARISH NEWS**

Dear Parishioners,

Following on from the Government's advice and communication from the Archbishop the Parish Team understands it is now necessary for us to cancel all masses/services including Baptisms in our Church until further notice. We realise that this is a difficult time and will inconvenience some people but this is being done for the health and safety of everyone particularly those who are vulnerable.

Please know that if you require any support or assistance in any way please do not hesitate to contact the parish office Monday – Friday from 9am-4pm on 9401 6366 as we have a good team to support you. Please keep in regular contact with your family/neighbours/friends and parish community – we are all in this together supporting one another.

We suggest that you use this time to come together as a family and also to spend time in God's comforting presence by praying, reading the Bible, watching Mass for you at Home on Channel 10 on Sunday mornings at 6am or in participating in a Mass online <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Take care

Prayers & blessings from the Parish Team