

Principal's News

Term 3 | 2020 Edition 2



St James Primary

Doyle Drive, Banora Point NSW 2486

p. 07 5524 9404

e. bpp@lism.catholic.edu.au

w. bpplism.catholic.edu.au



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 14th August

Pyjama Day – Homeless Week

Friday 21st August

Book Week – Dress Up Day

2020 TERM DATES

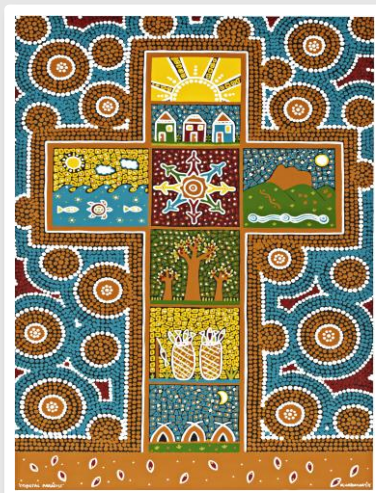
Term 3 2020

Last Day: Fri 25th September

Term 4 2020

First Day: Mon 12th October

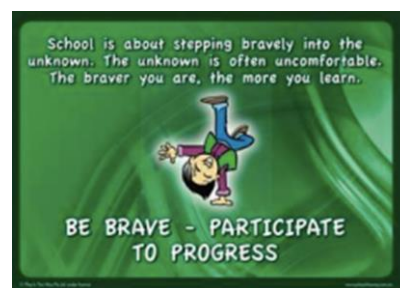
Last Day: Wed 16th December



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear St James Community,

This week celebrates that 12-month mark since we launched the 'Play is The Way' methodology into St James Primary. The program has supported the teaching and learning of social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language, which is developing and improving our students' personal and social capabilities. Particularly it has been tremendous to see our kids learn these skills through playing targeted games, which through the lens of our children brings about a lot of joy and engagement.



Further information can be found on the Play is the Way website:

<https://playistheway.com.au/>





Principal's News

Principal & Assistant Principal Appraisal:

In the coming weeks both myself and Rhonda Cree, our Assistant Principal will undertake their formative contract appraisals. We would both appreciate parental input, via the surveys that will come home soon, which will support and inform our leadership growth. Further information is outlined on Page 3 of this newsletter.

COVID-19 Update:

A letter regarding the latest COVID-19 advice and guidelines for our school will be available via School Stream. Parental support for implementing these guidelines is vital to the health and wellbeing of all; therefore, we ask that all families become familiar with the guidelines and enact them diligently. We truly appreciate your support!

Book Week:



During Term 3 we will celebrate Book Week; this year's theme is: **Curious Creatures, Wild Minds**.

A book fair will be held in the library from Monday 24th to Friday 28th August. No parents will be able to attend the book fair, but students can come along and purchase items with cash or via the book fair form.

The book week dress up day is planned for August 21st and students are invited to come dressed up as a book character on this day. Unfortunately, for this year, parents and friends will not be able to attend the parade, but we will share these memories with families via electronic means.



Thumbs up:

Gratitude and thanks are extended to....

- 👍 To parents for supporting our recent pupil free days (staff professional learning);
- 👍 Kindergarten 2021 families for meeting with members of the Leadership Team;
- 👍 Students, parents and teachers for being flexible with the 3-way conferences and for sharing the learning journey together.

To conclude:

On August 8th, we celebrate the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop; at school we will hold a liturgy on Monday August 10th to commemorate this special feast day.



Mary MacKillop was an Australian Catholic nun who founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and a number of schools throughout Australasia with an emphasis on education for the poor. Our Stage 3 Learning Community is named in her honour, as is one of our House Teams: MacKillop House (Blue).

Mary's generosity and kindness reminds us that we should "Never see a need without doing something about it." (St. Mary MacKillop), which through our discipleship and religious education program our students accomplish within our school and wider community.

We pray to Mary of the Cross MacKillop that we too may live with courage, trust and openness and be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit.

Regards,

Nic.



Principal's News

Community News & Events



Dear Parents,

During Term 3 on Wednesday, 9 September, 2020, Nicholas McTaggart will be involved in a principal appraisal process as part of his contract of employment. The appraisal process seeks information from a variety of people associated with the parish school and uses a number of tools to ensure effective consultation. The process aims to highlight the positive aspects of the leadership offered and identify areas for further development.

A timeline is currently being arranged to suit the needs of the parish school community. The appraisal will be conducted by a School Service Consultant from the Catholic Schools Office.

The full principal appraisal process involves:

- a survey and self-appraisal statement completed by the principal
- an interview with the principal
- input as arranged with the parish priest
- surveys of parents, parish school staff and Catholic Schools Office personnel
- interviews with the Schools Leadership Team
- interviews with a random selection of staff who request an interview with the Chair
- interviews with a random selection of parents who request an interview with the Chair

The preferred method of survey completion is by the online survey form. A link to this form will be forwarded to your email address. Please ensure your current email address is registered at the school as this survey link will be sent to you two to three weeks prior to the appraisal. Parents may express their interest to be interviewed via this electronic form. Not all those who express an interest to be interviewed will be contacted. If not contacted, then parents may wish to email the Chair with their comments. Anonymous comments and emails will not be considered.

In writing the appraisal report, the Chair makes use of the information gathered but does not identify sources. The principal does not sight the original returns. Every family in the school is encouraged to complete a survey.

Your support of the appraisal process is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Triglone
Chair

Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Lismore | 3 Dawson St (PO Box 158), Lismore NSW 2480
P 02 6622 0422 | E director@lism.catholic.edu.au | www.lism.catholic.edu.au



5th August, 2020

Dear Parents

During Term 3 on September 3rd, Rhonda Cree will be involved in an assistant principal appraisal process as part of her contract conditions with the Catholic Schools Office.

The appraisal process seeks information from a variety of people associated with the parish school. The process aims to highlight the positive aspects of the assistant principal's performance and identify areas for further development.

A timeline will be constructed to suit the needs of the parish school community. A panel consisting of the school Principal as Chair, a School Service Consultant and a staff member from Human Services at the Catholic Schools Office will conduct the appraisal.

The full assistant principal appraisal process involves:

- a survey and self-appraisal statement completed by the assistant principal
- surveys of parish school staff, Catholic Schools Office personnel
- an interview with the principal
- input as arranged with the parish priest
- interviews with parish school staff
- interviews with any parents who wish to present
- a formal interview with the assistant principal by the panel

Any parents who wish to make contact with the panel are welcome to do so by contacting the Principal before the appraisal date.

Thank you for your support of the parish school's administration team.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Nicholas McTaggart
Principal

(07) 5524 9404
bpp@lism.catholic.edu.au
PO Box 228, Banora Point NSW 2486
www.bpp@lism.catholic.edu.au
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School Prayer

Father, we believe that St James is a great place to learn and have fun.

We pray our school community will see joy in all that we do, encourage each other and show respect for one another. We thank you for the love and care of our families, teachers and friends.

With Jesus in our heart may we always be a Family in Christ.

St James – pray for us.

Mary our Good Mother – pray for us.

And let us always remember – to pray for one another.

Amen.