



St James

Catholic Primary School, Brighton

St James' Parents Association 2020 – December Newsletter

To our wonderful St James Community

Well, what a year we've had! We would like to thank our entire school community for all your hard work and effort towards getting our kids through remote learning and back to school safely and successfully. It was not an easy task and it tested all of us, but we did it with patience, resilience and a positive 'can-do' attitude, so well done to you all!

We would like to especially acknowledge Brendan, Carmelina and our entire school teaching staff for their courage, leadership, time, and unwavering efforts, prioritising the health and education of our children during a very difficult time for their learning and development. Technology played a key role here in supporting our children to keep connected, informed and engaged in their school life and with each other, albeit from the comfort of home. Technology continues to play this role through the use of the school portal, see-saw and social media channels, and we would like to thank Carmelina for promptly responding to the changes to our learning environment and positioning our school to becoming leaders in this area.

For our Foundation children and families, we feel very grateful to have welcomed Ms Aoife Tierney this year and along with the St James Leadership team, we thank you for your enthusiasm, guidance and support to our new and existing families through a difficult transition year for many young children, new to school life. We acknowledge that both our Foundation and Year 6 levels in particular, have not had the year they expected to start and/or finish their school life with however, we thank all our STJ teachers, students and families for your positive attitude, support and effort to make the most out of this unexpected situation. We hope that the new year brings a fresh start and opportunity to make new long-lasting school friendships and memories, and further strengthen our school community and spirit.

2020 – A Year in Review.

2020 has had its many challenges as we know but we did start the year well. Our Welcome Disco "Under the Sea", was a fantastic afternoon to welcome our new families to St James and celebrate our wonderful community spirit, allowing our new kids to meet their fellow classmates in a fun and engaging way. We would like to thank **Michelle Thomas** and **Sarah Webb** for their efforts in coordinating this event with its food trucks, DJs, amazing decorations and overall positive energy. Awesome work guys – really loved by all!! This 'dream-team' will again coordinate this disco event for **Friday 12th February, 2021** and we ask for as much help from all of you in the set-up and pack-down of this event. Without your help, these events won't happen, so please roll up your sleeves and let's create a fun afternoon again for our new preppies and families in 2021. Please get in touch if you want to help coordinate our 2021 Welcome Disco.

Dad's Camp in March was another great success story. The weather was on our side this year providing two beautiful action-packed days of super fun activities and if the photos are anything to go by, it seems it too was loved by all who attended this year including some of our new STJ families. A very special thanks to our Dad's rep **Paul Cheshire** for coordinating this event over the past two years, and all his efforts with ensuring our dads catch up regularly and feel supported by our school and community. We thank Paul for his time and efforts here and we look forward to meeting the new Dad's Rep for 2021 when appointed. Thanks Paul, well done!

Shrove Tuesday aka. Pancake Day was a great success this year thanks to the culinary skill set of **Tanya Schiffter** and team, the pancakes were seriously delicious!! Our Easter Raffle event was our last school activity for Semester 1 and ran on the announcement of school closure OR lockdown 1.0 due to Covid-19. **Kate Korber**, **Kat Cheshire** and **Michelle Thomas** coordinated the activities for our Easter Raffle including our Hot Cross Bun drive, which was our last fundraising activity for this year. Thank you for your support towards purchasing raffle tickets and bun packs, it was a great response from everyone.

I would like to acknowledge our amazing PA Co-Chair, friend and fellow mum **Kate Korber**, for her work in producing the Mother's and Father's Day videos in an effort to keep the community together albeit remotely, to celebrate these days and acknowledge the special people in our community. Thanks Kate, these videos were amazing and very well received by us all!

We would have loved to have many other of our great social events at St James this year, that keep us connected as a parent group. Where we could we have extended our bookings for some of our activities for 2021 and will keep you informed of these moving forward as we confirm details and event specifics (in line with Covid restrictions and guidelines). Our list of Activities & Events, Co-ordinators and *new* Class Reps for 2021 is now available and will continue to be updated as required.

We held our final PA/AGM meeting for 2020 this week and reviewed/discussed some of the key achievements this year, including suggestions our parent community have provided earlier this year towards what we utilise our PA funds for in 2021. Further information about this will be communicated soon. We also acknowledged our current representatives and confirmed 2021 reps, as well as appointed our STJP Executive Team for next year: Co-Chairs – **Kat Cheshire & Kate Korber**, Treasurer – **Lee Hemingway** and Secretary – **Candice Murray-Beckman**. We would like to thank **Tanya Schiffter** for her contribution and support as Treasurer this year, particularly, in the implementation and management of our new CDF accounting system. This system will be used for all our 2021 school purchases, some events/ticketing requirements and further information and guidelines about this system will be communicated to you in the new year.

We would like to acknowledge the reps and event volunteers in our community who have volunteered their time this year. Schools cannot run without the dedication of parents, and our children are ultimately the ones who reap the reward. Thank you to the following who volunteered for roles as reps or event co-ordinators this year. Even if some events didn't go ahead, your offers of help did not go unnoticed. **2020 Class Representatives / Event Volunteers...**

Tanya Schiffter	Candice Murray-Beckman	Deb O'Reilly	Paul Cheshire	Adrian Rowse	Blair Sands
Scott Jarvis	Sarah Webb	Michelle Thomas	Lee Hemmingway	Jo Picking	Donette Simmons
Zoe Saunders	Deb Richardson	Jo Shields	Paula Ince	Tania Wallace	Fiona Vaughan
Fiona Patterson	Prue Read	Kate Digney	Liz Mee	Marina McCubbery	Belinda Chapman
Connie Sands	Kylie Martin	Jackie Hancock			

and anyone who added their extra hands at the last minute. We thank you and hope you can help us next year when things get back on track. It would be great to see more dad's at our PA meetings as reps too, so put your hands up dad's, you will be warmly welcomed!

For now, we say goodbye to 2020 and a *very* special goodbye to our **Year 6** students and families that are leaving us this year. We thank you for your hard work this year and in past years. And to those families who are leaving St James after many years, we will really miss you! Good luck on your journeys next year and all the very best moving forward.

We wish all our St James families and school community a very safe and happy new year for 2021. Merry Christmas, stay well and see you next year!

Many thanks

Co-chairs STJPA, Kat Cheshire and Kate Korber

2021 - Tentative dates for St James Events & Activities (please note these may change depending on COVID restrictions)

WELCOME DISCO - Friday 12th Feb

PANCAKE DAY - Tuesday 16th Feb

DAD'S CAMP - FRIDAY 12-14 MARCH

EASTER RAFFLE - Thursday 1st April

WALKATHON / FUN RUN - Friday 23rd April

MOTHERS DAY LUNCH - Saturday 1st May

MAIN EVENT- Sat 28th Aug or Sat 4th Sep (TBC)

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST T3 (TBC)

GRANDPARENTS DAY - Friday 22nd Oct

OAKS DAY LUNCH - Thursday 4th Nov

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE - TBC

END OF YEAR PARENT XMAS PARTY - TBC