Dear Parents and Friends,

Jesus said “There was a man who was beaten, robbed and left for dead by the road. A religious leader came by but did not stop. A Levite came by but did not stop. Then a Samaritan came by. He was filled with compassion. He bandaged the man’s wounds and carried him to safe place.” It is easy to care for those who we love, Jesus challenges to reach out to everyone.

Father, you love all your children.
Help us to love those who we most find difficult to like.
Amen.

Welcome back to school for our third term of learning at St Francis School.

During the holidays I spent five days in Ipswich attending the Australian Reggio Emilia Conference ‘Landscapes of Wonder’. The conference was fantastic and supports the work Roslyn undertook in Italy earlier in the year.

St Francis is proud to be part of the ‘Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange’ (REAIE)

“REAIE draws on the work in Reggio Emilia as an ongoing catalyst for thinking, research and advocacy in educational settings. REAIE recognizes children as social beings from birth, full of curiosity and imagination, and having the potential and desire to find connections and meaning in all they experience. REAIE acknowledge children’s ability to reflect upon and contribute to their own learning through their many languages of expression and communication. REAIE recognize that all children have the right to be heard, to be respected, and to feel a sense of belonging to their family, school and community.”

We are excited about the opportunities being part of REAIE will bring to our school.

On Wednesday, 17 July we come together with all staff members from our Nathalia Learning Community (NLC) to work with international educational leader and author Sir John Jones. This professional development opportunity is one of NLC’s first projects. Please find attached to this letter the context, rationale and objectives for the learning community; ‘maximizing opportunity through partnership’.

We have lots to look forward to this term including the preparation and celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation, Book Week Celebrations including our annual dress up parade on 16 August 2013 and an exciting Science Incursion with Professor Bunsen this Friday.

Peace and blessings for the weeks ahead,

Claire Kelly

PLEASE REMEMBER!
NO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

At St Francis School we are committed to supporting our children’s social skills and develop positive behaviour. Each fortnight we focus the children into an important social skill, which supports us all to live out our school rules; Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for our School.

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is responsibility. Responsibility is the ability to look after a person or thing and being prepared to take the blame if something goes wrong. It is an indication of maturity, reliability and trustworthiness. It also includes the ability to take on duties, or be the instigator of a task or project. In its simplest form, responsibility means ‘making your own decisions’.

WELLBEING:

The Grace of Hope
Mark found reading difficult. No matter how hard he tried, he just couldn’t get it. He wanted to be a good reader, but he felt stupid. After Mark talked to God about it he decided not to give up. He told himself that he could do it and asked his teacher for help. He still found it hard, but gradually he got better.

Lots of things in life are hard, especially important things like school work. When we are tempted to give up, God gives us the gift of hope.

Family reflection:
Hope is knowing that God is close to us, helping us.

When we find things difficult, Lord you are near.
Give us your grace of hope.

Amen.
Reconciliation:
St Mary’s parish Sacramental Program for Reconciliation begins on **Monday, 22 July 2013 at 7 p.m.** These sessions will last for an hour and will be held in our school library.

School Reports:
If you have not yet received your child/ren’s school report, please telephone the class teacher to arrange a parent/teacher interview at which time you will be given your child/ren’s report.

Interactive Science Incursion with Professor Bunson:
Our whole school will be participating in this wonderful interactive science incursion to be held in the multi-purpose building of the Glenvale School, this Friday, 19 July 2013. Students will walk to the Glenvale School for a 12.30 p.m. start. We would love parent helpers to walk with us. Please call Lonky (Veronica) at the school office if you can help. We will be departing school at 12.15 p.m. and returning at approximately 1.45 p.m. **There will be no lunch orders on this day.**

School Newsletters:
Newsletters will continue to be completed each Monday for distribution on Tuesday. If you have any additions for our newsletter please forward them to Veronica Daniel by Monday morning vdaniel@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au - we are currently distributing many newsletters via email, if you would like your newsletter emailed each week please contact Lonky (Veronica).

Junior Public Speaking – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
The School competition has been pushed back one week to allow the children involved some more preparation time. We will be holding our school competition for our Grade 3 and Grade 4 students on Monday, 29 July 2013 between 11.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m., and our Grade 5 and 6 students on Tuesday, 30 July 2013 between 9.00 a.m. and 10.40 a.m. The competition will be held both days in the St Clare Auditorium at St Mary of the Angels and parents are most welcome to attend to support the children. Our chosen students will then represent our school at the Lions Club Junior Public Speaking competition on Wednesday, 7 August 2013.

Winter Woollies Day:
On Friday, 26 July 2013 our school, along with all the other schools in Nathalia, will be participating in a ‘Winter Woollies Day’ to promote energy awareness. We will be aiming to use less electricity on this day so our students are encouraged to wear warm jumpers and scarves etc., to school. Our senior students will be involved in energy promoting activities with our friends at Nathalia Secondary College.

Whole School Nit Check Friday, 26 July 2013
For many families and teachers of school-aged children, head lice continues to create concerns. St Francis School will be recommencing our parent-managed head lice program. **On Friday, 26 July 2013 there will be a Whole-School Nit Check commencing at 9.00 a.m. in the school library.** We have attached an information/consent form, which we would ask parents to complete and return to school by **Wednesday, 24 July 2013.** Only students whose parents consented to be part of the Parent-Managed Head Lice Program will be checked on Friday, 26 July 2013. We would like to reassure parents that the volunteer parents that are part of this program hold confidentiality and the self-esteem of all children in high regard and if treatment is required all measures are taken to mask this from the other children in the room. If we treat one child, we ‘practice’ on another child so as no one child can be singled out because he/she has wet hair. We would appreciate help from as many parents as possible. You do not need to stay for the whole session, any time you can volunteer would be appreciated. All volunteers are required to sign and uphold a confidentiality agreement and have a current Working with Children Check. Please contact us at school if you can help.

Grade 1 students need your help:
Our Grade 1 has decided to revamp their patch & workshop area. We are looking for any garden pots, bricks, pavers, wood, fencing, seeds etc. If you have ANYTHING at all that we can recycle and use we would love to take it off your hands!

Book Week:
Book Week will take place in Week 5 of Term 3 and on **Friday, 16 August 2013** we will hold our Book Parade and students are asked to dress up as their favourite book character or for the Book Week theme, which is ‘Read Across the Universe’.

Father’s Day Celebrations:
On **Friday, 30 August 2013** we will be holding our Father’s Day celebration. Dress up in your favourite footy colours and bring Dad/Grandpa or a special friend for lunch and afternoon activities and games. Further details to come closer to the date.
PARENTS CLUB UPDATE

Parents Club Email List

The next Parents Club meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd July 2013 and we would love to see as many people there as possible. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to know what is discussed and what events are being planned, you can be included on the email list to get a copy of the minutes each month and also be kept up to date with current projects. If you would like to add your address to the Parents Club email list, send an email to jmatthews@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au

Wendy House Silent Auction

The Wendy House holds many fond memories for past and present students of St Francis. Unfortunately, a recent OHS audit has found that the Wendy House is no longer suitable for the school grounds. Some members of the school community would like to see the Wendy House relocated “off campus” rather than demolished so we are holding a SILENT AUCTION for anyone interested in bringing this piece of history home!

If you are interested, write your "bid" on a piece of paper and put it in a sealed envelope with your name and “Wendy House Silent Auction” on the front and hand the envelope in to St Francis Reception by Wednesday 31st July 2013. The Wendy House and responsibility for its removal will go to the highest bidder.

2012 – 2013 Fundraising Update

With the end of the financial year, the Parents Club thought it would be a good time to reflect on the St Francis community fundraising efforts for the last 12 months. The following is a summary of the profit from our major fundraisers:

- iPod shuffle night $1900
- Fathers day BBQ $550
- Vision Portraits $315
- BBQs and Icy poles $190
- Hot Cross Bun drive $110
- Easter Raffle $1110
- Shopping Tour $980
- Cross Country Run $560
- Mother’s Day Stall $580

Total $6295

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising events. All funds raised go to providing extra resources for our school.