Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope you have all had a safe and happy Easter and are feeling refreshed and ready for term 2.

The Easter season, which began on the weekend, will continue until Pentecost Sunday - a period of 50 days. For the Church this is a time of celebration and highlights the healing power of love.

It is about recognizing Jesus alive, and Jesus with us now. In recognising the power given to us through him, Easter becomes about courageous love and service.

Christ our Saviour, when you rose again you brought to the holy women and the apostles the joyful news of a world redeemed - make us witnesses to your risen life.
You promised to all people that we would rise up again to newness of life – make us heralds of your Gospel.
You showed yourself to your apostles and breathed the Holy Spirit on them – renew in us the presence of the same creator Spirit.
You promised to be with your disciples to the end of the world – stay with us today, and remain with us always.

As we start our new term we thank all those in our school community for their service, whether it be through selling raffle tickets, tidying up a garden or listening to children read – it all adds to the strength of our school and supports our children in their learning journey.

Congratulations to Malinda, Jarrod and Charlie Rankin who are expecting a new family member mid October. Malinda is planning to finish at the end of term three - giving her some down time before baby arrives- we hope!

We look forward to sharing our learning with you throughout the term,

Veronica Williams

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

Pope Francis
OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Lots has been happening over the holidays and you will notice a few changes.

Thanks to those who spent a day working on the ‘Garden Rescue’ and have regenerated some of the garden spaces at the front of our school - they look great. Below are some of our avid gardeners.

The cubby house revamp has continued, and a huge thank you to Greg McIver who has put a lot of thought and effort into the renovation. The new bench spaces will provide a great space for students to work and play, and I’m sure the shelving will come in very handy. Well worth a look!

Our parent room has also had some work with extra shelving put in place - a great place to store all those Mothers Day gifts! The Parents and Friends committee will be running their Mothers Day stall in week 3, as well as a movie night in week 2. A very busy time for them! Thank you to the parents club for all their efforts, especially to those who gave of their time to run the Easter Egg raffle over the Easter weekend.

On the technology front, we have returned the older of our laptops and ipads that were at the end of their lease. We have a dozen new ipads to be used across P-3 to support learning and await the arrival of the new class set of laptops to replace those that were on the old lease. In the library we have also upgraded from our old wifi system, which struggled to handle traffic when larger groups tried to operate off it.

The new art work on display in the office by Yorta Yorta artist, Ross A Morgan, has been hung. Thanks again to Samantha Baksh for the donation of this beautiful artwork.
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is **Kindness**

Kindness is a value which we would like others to show to us, and which we should show to others. It is a basic act, which should be instinctive to human nature. Kindness is about being helpful, friendly and considerate. It may be shown in any number of ways from one small, insignificant act to large obvious overtures. It is an act whose only reward should be in the giving, expecting nothing in return.

UNIFORM UPDATE
Just a reminder that we will be having a focus on the wearing of correct uniform and we look for your support in this. Fancy jewellery, hair adornments, nail polish etc. are for weekend, or after school wear.
As sent home at the end of term - we are now into winter uniform and it is expected that all students will be in this by the end of week 2. We also ask that uniform, particularly school jumpers are clearly labelled, to ensure that we can return jumpers to the correct owner and keep down the amount of lost property.

**Oops! I forgot my lunch.**
Just to let you know...
When students forget their lunch, and you are unable to bring it in, we will provide them with sandwiches - not a lunch order or something from down the street. We have some basic supplies available for such emergencies- nothing gourmet- but they will not go hungry.

**Premiers Reading Challenge**
At the end of last term we began the Premiers Reading Challenge across grades 2-6. All students are expected to participate in this, however, if they wish to record their books online at school or home, and to be a part of the online honour roll, they need to have parental permission to do so. If you have not returned the form, but are happy for your child to participate, spare forms are available from the office or you can email us at principal@sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au. Without parental permission the students will simply keep a pen and paper record of their Reading Challenge results. More information about the Premiers Reading Challenge, and the list of books students can select from go to [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc).

**Running Club**
The next two running club sessions will be on Wednesday, 23rd of April and Wednesday, 30th of April, starting at 8.40am. Everyone welcome.

**ANZAC DAY SERVICE**
As you know, this Friday is ANZAC Day. As it is a holiday, but an important day that we wish to recognise, we will be having a short ANZAC day prayer service lead by our school leaders in the library on Thursday morning at 9am.

*Everyone welcome.*
CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION, 2014

Our parish Sacramental Program for Confirmation and First Communion begins on **Monday the 28th April at 7pm** in the convent (McAssi Centre) meeting room. This meeting will provide information about Confirmation and First Communion, as well as being the first session of the Sacramental Program. It is an expectation that students participating in the program attend all six sessions leading up to their Confirmation and First Communion, and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please contact Veronica Williams (0408 136 010) if you wish to be a part of this.

The celebration of Confirmation and First Communion will take place on **Sunday, the 22nd of June, 2014 at 9.30am**.

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**St Francis School Presents**

**Outdoor Movie Night**

Featuring **BRAVE**

**Friday 2nd May**

St Francis School, Chapel St.

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**BRAVE**

Children/Family, Rated PG, 100 Minutes

In ancient and rugged Scotland, the impetuous, independent princess Merida is a young aspiring archer, having been encouraged from a young age by her loving, larger-than-life father, King Fergus. Her mother Queen Elinor has conscientiously schooled her daughter to be proficient in all things as the future Queen, but Merida rebels. When the King and Queen invite the surrounding clans to present their sons as suitors, Merida is desperate and finds a witch, who grants her a spell - with devastating results.

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Any donations of cakes, slices or biscuits for the movie night gratefully accepted.