Dear Parents and Friends,

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

This week’s gospel tells us the story of the great harvest. Jesus said, "A farmer went out to sow some grain. Some seeds fell along the path and the birds ate it. Some seeds fell on rocky ground; it sprouted straight away for the soil was not deep but when the sun grew hot the seedlings died because they had no roots. Some seeds fell among thorn bushes, which choked the seedlings. But some fell on good soil; it grew a great harvest." Through this parable Jesus warns us of the challenge of following him. Sometimes the challenge may lie in our lack of understanding, like seeds on the path; at other times we lack the courage to follow Jesus at difficult times, like the seeds on rocky ground.

There’s not a moment of any day or night, Lord, when you don’t have time for me... Not a moment when you wouldn't put everything aside just to listen to my story, to speak to me, heart to heart, from your heart, Lord, to mine...

Then why am I so often busy, too busy, to spend some time with you?

On a winter's day, Lord, slow me down and give me time for nothing else to do but be with you and rest and know again for certain that you walk right by my side... Let a winter lull, calm and call me to a time of prayer, a place of peace and meeting you again...

I know you have the time, Lord, and I know you'll always make the time to be with me: help me find and make the time I need this winter just to spend good time with you...

Lord, may we be like good soil, ready to hear your word and understand it. Give us courage to follow you. Amen.

Next week we will welcome Aleeta Northley to school for our ‘dance week’! Children from across the school will be engaged in daily dance and choreography sessions led by Aleeta supporting the preparation of our school concert ‘Candy Land – A Sweet Adventure’ on WEDNESDAY JULY 30th. For our new families you will be amazed at how we bring together a magical school concert in just 10 days ... save the date for a super night of talent and excitement!

Blessings for a safe and productive term for us all,

Claire Kelly

St Francis School Concert.
Wednesday 30th July, 7pm.
Nathalia Community Centre.
‘Candy Land – A Sweet Adventure’!
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”.

**PRINCIPAL’S SUMMATIVE APPRAISAL**

On behalf of Father Chris Reay, I wish to advise the School community that Claire Kelly will soon undertake a Summative Appraisal. Claire is in her fifth year of a five-year contract as the Principal of St Francis school.

The Sandhurst School Education Board (SSEB) Principal Appraisal policy and process is a professional and contractual mechanism that provides accountability to the school community and the Diocese.

Pauline Fisher, Educational Consultant, will coordinate the Summative Appraisal process.

Staff, students in Years 4, 5 & 6, School Board Members, the Parents and Friends group and a random selection of parents will be invited to participate in the appraisal by completing an online questionnaire. If you do not receive an appraisal questionnaire and you wish to contribute to Claire’s appraisal, please contact Maree Glen at the Catholic Education Office, Wangaratta, telephone 5723 0000 and she will make a questionnaire available to you.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the appraisal, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Catholic Education Office, Wangaratta on 03 5723 0000.

*Pauline Fisher*
*Educational Consultant*
*Catholic Education Office, Wangaratta*

**NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

Our school has been selected to participate in the 2014 Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (Data Collection).

This national Data Collection is taking place in schools across Australia and will provide information about the number of students with disability in schools, where they are located and the adjustments they receive. The information provided by this new data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources. This will assist students with disability in government and non-government schools across Australia to complete school and go on to further education or find employment. Inclusion in the Data Collection is voluntary.

If you wish your child to be excluded from this, you can choose to opt-out of the data collection by informing us in writing. For further information about the Data Collection, please contact Claire or visit Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) website [http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au/](http://www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au/).
CHRISTMAS IN JULY – SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Come and enjoy Christmas in July at Brereton’s Bakery this Saturday, 19 July 2014 commencing at 7.00 p.m. $40.00 per head for a four course meal and entertainment provided by Jess Brooks and Sam Wallace and band – all students at St Mary of the Angel’s Secondary College. BYO drinks. Places are filling up fast but you can still book in by either phoning the school office on 5866 2271 or Brereton’s Bakery on 5866 2466. To assist with the smooth running of the evening it would be appreciated if payment could be made to either the school office or Brereton’s Bakery prior to Saturday night. All funds raised are for our school and it is wonderful to see so many people supporting this fun night.

JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

We held our school Junior Public Speaking competition in the last week of Term 2. Congratulations to Abbey Bell, Abbey Conroy and Maddison Pawlowicz who all came equal first in the Grade 5 and 6 competition and Jack Myers who came first and Nikita Pawlowicz and Kate Kelly who came equal second in the Grade 3 and 4 competition. These students will represent our school at the local Lions Club Junior Public Speaking competition which will be held next Wednesday, 23 July 2014 at the Nathalia Senior Citizens Club Rooms in Harcourt Street, Nathalia commencing at 7.00 p.m. All are most welcome to attend and support our students.

P & F REMINDERS

The parents and friends club will once again be running a snack stall at this years school concert on Wednesday, 30 July 2014 any willing volunteers please let the office know and a member will get in touch with you.

Monster Car Boot and Community Garage Sale - Sunday August 3rd from 9am. We will be holding a car boot sale and sausage sizzle at the school as well as supporting several garage sales around the town on the same day. Sites available for tables or car boots at the school $10 each or $5 to get your garage sale listed on our map. There will be a second hand uniform stall and a school stall also. If you have “TREASURE” hanging around your house or shed but don't wish to man your own stall call Denise 0400 052 428 or text Louise 0408 797 632 to donate to the school stall. The whole community is invited to attend, so make sure you tell your friends and neighbours. Contact the above numbers for any enquiries.

OBITUARY

Rest in Peace Monsignor John White MBE. On Monday 23rd June, Monsignor John White MBE passed away. Monsignor had been the Vicar General of Sandhurst for many years and most recently had been the Canonical Administrator of the five Catholic schools in Wangaratta. Monsignor White received the Bishop Noel Daly Award for outstanding service to leadership in Catholic Education in the Sandhurst Diocese in June 2012. He served as a military chaplain for a number of decades and during this time he “selflessly ministered not only to the members of the armed forces and their families but also to the children and families of South Vietnam. He received the Member of the British Empire Award for his service to the orphaned children of South Vietnam where he established an orphanage, a home for them. Countless lives have been restored due to his vision, faith and generosity.” (Award presentation speech, Bishop Noel Daly Award, 2012). Monsignor White also served at St Kilian’s Parish in Bendigo in the early years of his priesthood as well as St John’s Parish in Euroa after he returned from his Military Vicariate. Monsignor White was a man who was fully devoted to his vocation as priest.

RHONDA M TALLNASH – CHILDREN’S AUTHOR

A reminder that Rhonda M Tallnash, an Australian children’s author will be visiting our school this Wednesday, 16th July 2014. Rhonda will be sharing her story and reading from her children’s books with each classroom of children, commencing with Prep & Grade 1 from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m., then Grade 2 & 3 from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and Grade 4, 5 & 6 from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Parents and younger children at home are most welcome to attend. Students will be able to purchase copies of Rhonda’s books, all books costing $12.00 each. Rhonda will also be available to sign any books purchased.
Sacrament of Reconciliation
This term we will be preparing students for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To understand the importance of this sacrament, we share with you some of the late Bishop Joseph Grech’s words from the Steps in Faith Program that we use to prepare the students:

“The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to look at those areas in our lives which need to be changed and to ask our God to help us achieve this through the experience of being forgiven. When we experience forgiveness we are empowered to forgive others as well as enabled to pursue only those ways which are right, just and life giving.

Reconciliation is the mending of broken relationships and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we mend our relationship with God.

…I also pray that by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis we realize more and more that no matter what mistakes and bad decisions we have made God is always ready to forgive us and continue to mould and fashion us so that we can make a positive difference in our lives and in the lives of those we meet."

In saying sorry we mend our relationship with each other, in taking part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are acknowledging our failings and mending our relationship with God, knowing that His love is unconditional and we will be forgiven. Reconciliation is a celebration of God’s love and forgiveness, which is always available to us.

When we are truly reconciled we are living in Right Relationship with one another, our world and our God. As Christians we hope for a future when we relate to each other, the environment and to God in the way that Jesus showed us. (Source of Life).

St. Mary’s parish Sacramental Program for Reconciliation begins on Monday the 28th of July at 7.00 pm. This meeting will provide information about Reconciliation, as well as being the first session of the Sacramental Program. It is an expectation that students participating in the program attend all four sessions leading up to taking part in Reconciliation for the first time.

Meeting dates: 28th July, 4th August, 11th August and 18th August at 7.00 pm

The date set for the celebration of the Sacrament is Tuesday, the 26th of August at 7.00 pm. Please contact Veronica Williams (0408 136 010), or St Francis School, if you wish your child to be a part of this program.