Prayer Space

THE BLESSING OF WINTER

Leader: In the heart of winter, let us give thanks for the many quiet blessings of this season.

All: We give thanks for the blessing of winter:
Seasons to cherish the heart.
To make warmth and quiet for the heart.
To cook for the heart and read for the heart.
To make soups and broths for the heart.
To curl up softly and nestle with the heart.
To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.
To dream with the heart.
To spend time with the heart.
A long, long time of peace with the heart.
We give thanks for the blessing of winter:
Season to cherish the heart.
Amen.

Reader: Sometimes our faith resembles a fruit tree in winter.
Who would think that these branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.

Leader: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.

All: May we be planted and grounded in love and grow in all ways into Christ.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Welcome back to Term 3. I entrust everyone has had a happy and restful break. It has been lovely to speak to the children throughout the week and hear of the many stories and holiday adventures families have had. Well done to those who managed to escape the cold winter weather and especially to the lucky few who managed to escape the country altogether!

We have another busy term ahead with our full school review in August, Christmas in July tomorrow night, School Sports, Public Speaking events, 5/6 Camp to Melbourne, Prep Enrolment Interviews, Father’s Day celebrations, Trivia Night and Book Week all on the horizon. Third term is a great term for consolidation of student learning and teachers have been busy preparing units of work and tasks to make sure student goals and targets are being met. Remember don’t hesitate to come in and speak to your child’s teacher regarding their learning. It’s important to be active and interested in your children’s education and we love it when parents can be involved. As teachers we can’t do it alone and really appreciate parental support in any way, shape or form.

French Day Fun ~ Bastille Day July 14th

Last Tuesday we held our French Day, which coincided with France’s National Day of celebration, Bastille Day. Bastille Day commemorates the beginning of the French Revolution with the Storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789. All across France celebrations are held and in tradition as part of our commitment to learning the French language at school, we celebrated with a sea of Red, White and Blue. Berets, fake moustaches and some really poor attempts of the French accent, adorned all those who participated throughout our day of fun and activities.

Thank you to Shirley Jean who coordinated the day and for organising such a wonderful and culturally significant experience. Thanks also to Jim Brereton for allowing the 3/4 students to go to the bakery to make French Sticks, rolls and Smiley Faces to share for our French Food.

Congratulations to our Junior Public Speakers

On Wednesday and Thursday we held the school heats for the Junior Public Speaking at the St Claire Auditorium. The talent and confidence of all students who participated blew the judges away and it was extremely difficult to choose the winners from each age division. Congratulations to all of our Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 students who participated and especially for having the courage and bravery to publically speak to an audience. It is never an easy thing to do.

Our school age group winners were:
Grade 3/4 Ella Bryant Zara Limbrick Cadence Armstrong  Special mentions for Grade 3/4 group: Clancy, Gus and Darcy.

Grades 5/6 Nikita Pawlowicz Ella Wilson Jack Myers. There were a number of students in the Grade 5/6 heats who presented fantastic speeches, however, in the end the final decision came down to those that were closest to the 4 minute mark.

Our winners will go onto to compete against students from other local schools in the Lions Club event to be held on Wednesday 22 July 2015 at St Francis Library.

Contestants need to arrive at 6.45 p.m. and the event will commence at 7.00 p.m. Supper, provided by the Lions Club, will follow the speeches. Everyone is most welcome to attend this event. We are so very proud of each and every student who participated in the heats.
Staffing Update ~ Term 3
We welcome Nathan Secchi to our staff team for the next 5 weeks. Nathan has accepted the 0.4 position for the first 5 weeks of the term before he commences a teaching position in the United Kingdom. Nathan has been working at our school for the past 6 months in a casual relief capacity and is very well liked and accepted in our community.

Malinda Rankin, who is currently on maternity leave, will take over the part time position for the remainder of the year after the first 5 weeks of term.

I’m sure you can appreciate replacing staff is never an easy thing to do, especially midway through the year. We are very grateful to have two experienced and capable teachers in Nathan and Malinda and thank them for accepting the position in the 3/4 Learning Community. We welcome both Nathan and Malinda into our school.

Insight SRC Survey – School Improvement Surveys
Every year we participate in the Insight SRC Survey, which is conducted by Catholic Education Sandhurst. All staff members, a selection of grade 5 and 6 students and 60 families are asked to take part in this survey. The survey asks you to rate your views about our school, with the main aim of the survey to find out how staff and student wellbeing can be improved in our school. No information gathered will be provided to other schools nor is any of the information gathered allowed in the public domain (i.e. through media outlets, for use on the “my school” website or on the school’s website). All individual responses from staff, students and parents will be kept confidential and will not be identifiable to any other person or body outside of Insight SRC. The students will complete the surveys during school times and parent surveys will be sent home early next week. Surveys can be completed in hard copy and returned to the school for onforwarding, or you can complete the survey online. Surveys must be completed in the period 20 July to 31 July 2015.

Fr Chris’ Birthday Celebration ~ Sunday 19th July
There will be a special birthday celebration held for Fr Chris this Sunday 19th July after 9:30am mass. Morning tea and refreshments will be shared in the Library / Gathering space at St Francis Primary School straight after Mass. Please bring a plate to share. All welcome!

Christmas in July ~ Saturday 18th July
Our major School Fundraiser for the year is being held tomorrow night, Saturday 18th July. Tickets and entry is $40 per person. Gourmet finger food, entertainment and door prizes included in ticket price. BYO drinks. We have some great items to auction including a child’s push bike and a Family Day Care voucher for a family for a week (valued up to $1,600.00) plus other great prizes – who will win the reindeer race? Venue: Brereton’s Bakery Nathalia. Please contact the school or Brereton’s Bakery for further details.

2014 Annual Report to the Community
Hard copies of our Annual Report 2014 are now available at the office or is online on our school website. http://www.sfnathalia.catholic.edu.au/

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Chris Summers

Quote of the week:

THE REASON WHY PEOPLE GIVE UP SO FAST IS BECAUSE THEY TEND TO LOOK AT HOW FAR THEY STILL HAVE TO GO, INSTEAD OF HOW FAR THEY HAVE GOTTEN.

St Francis School Uniforms are now available for purchase from Casual Step in Nathalia.

School Football
Change to times this Saturday 18 July 2015
Grade 5/6 game commences at 9.00 a.m.
Grade 3/4 game commences at 10.00 a.m.
On Bastille Day our students participated in many different activities including art. The students created beautiful art pieces inspired by Claude Monet. Above pictures: above top left: Dylan Madden (Gr 5/6R); above top right: Nikita Pawlowicz (Gr 5/6R); above left: Hayley Summervile (Gr 3/4J), above right: Zara Limbrick (Gr 3/4J). Opposite: Cadence Armstrong (Gr 3/4J). I think we have some budding artists amongst our students! Well done everyone.

St Francis Catholic Primary School acknowledges the Bangarang and Yorta Yorta people, the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.