Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to our fourth term of learning at St Francis School. This is a special week at our school as we recognise the feast of St Francis, which is celebrated on October 4th each year. The Spirit of St. Francis is one of love for all creation. St Francis found perfect joy and peace in whatever he did, in the beauty of the countryside and in all living creatures. In his comparatively short life (he died aged 44) he lived so fully and impressively as to leave a lasting influence on the Catholic religion and indeed on the history of mankind.

St Francis is often called the most Christ-like man our history has seen. After 750 years his memory does not grow dim. St Francis had respect and reverence for the things of nature. His kindness to animals, his reverence for God’s gifts of creation, his uninhibited appreciation of beauty, his love for life and happiness made him dearly loved. When we mention St. Francis we conjure up pictures of a gentle man in tune with nature, at peace with himself and his surroundings. As we reflect on the prayer of St Francis we are invited to reflect on the relationships and situations in our own lives where we need to be the ones to take the first step towards making peace. We may not be able to change the world but each of us can be a channel of peace right where we are...

The Prayer of St Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Peace and blessings for the week ahead,

Claire Kelly
SCHOOL REPORTS:
A reminder to parents to please return Report folders to school as soon as possible as teachers will be commencing collecting work samples for students end of year reports.

UPDATED STUDENT DETAIL FORMS:
A reminder to parents to complete and return to the school the Updated Student Detail Forms that were sent out in the latter half of Term 3. These forms enable our records to be up to date and return of these forms would be greatly appreciated.

GOULBURN VALLEY GLASS:
We say a big thank you to Goulburn Valley Glass for their kind donation to our school. Their generosity is very much appreciated.

JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING:
We are very excited to advise that Jack Myers won the Lions Club Junior Public Speaking Regional Final, which was held on Sunday, 21 September 2014 at Tocumwal. Jack has now been asked to present his speech at the Lions Club Convention on 19 October 2014. We are so very proud of Jack.

INTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS:
Our Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 students are participating in the Interschool Athletics this Friday, 10 October 2014. Grades 3 and 4 will be travelling to Numurkah Primary School where they will participate in their events. Claire Kelly, Karyn Miller and David Newman will be supervising these students. The Grades 5 and 6 students events will be held at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve and Shirley Jean and Brodie Ross will be supervising these students. Parents are most welcome to attend either venue to cheer along our students. It is most important that the permission notes sent home in the last week of Term 3 are signed and returned to school in order that your child/ren may participate on Friday.

SHAVE FOR A CURE – NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION
On Friday, 17 October 2014, Annie Dietrich, a Grade 6 student at our school, together with her cousin Teashia and Teashia’s stepsister Kloe, will all have their heads shaved as a fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This event is being held at St Francis Primary School, commencing at 6.00 p.m. Family tickets are $50.00 and individual tickets are $15.00 each. Ticket prices include dinner, jumping castles, ferris wheel rides, face painting, various stalls, an auction and entertainment by Sonita. An order form is enclosed in the newsletter and if you plan on attending this great night, please complete and return to the school – this is simply to assist the organisers with catering. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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”.

UPDATES
CONGRATULATIONS

Malinda and Jarrod Rankin

On the safe arrival of

AIMEE KAYE

A beautiful sister for Charlie.

Goodbye Mr Kelly!

David Kelly has accepted a position at PALS (Providing All Living Support), a Moira Shire organisation supporting services to people with a disability, the aged or who are disadvantaged in accessing or participating fully in the community. David has been appointed as the Manager of the PALS Northern Houses.

David takes up his appointment today, so his last day at St Francis was yesterday. We congratulate David on this significant appointment which will give him the opportunity to support adults living with a disability in our region through client directed independent living programs, supported and independent accommodation services, employment options and training. David will also be responsible for supporting and directing the work of the disability support workers within the PALS Northern houses. We acknowledge the huge contributions David has made at St Francis over the last eight years especially promoting the independence and potential of all of the children he has worked with.

Paula Thompson, who currently works with us three days each week, will take up working five days each week from week two of this term. We have today circulated an advertisement for a disability support worker for the 2015 school year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NATHALIA JUNIOR TENNIS registration morning and hit commencing this Saturday, 11 October 2014. Come along and try out or sign up. For more information contact Rose Nihill on phone 0438 662 149.
ATHLETICS SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday, 17 September 2014 we held our Athletics sports day at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve. It was a great day with all the students participating enthusiastically in the events. The day would not have been the success it was without all those who volunteered their time to help and we thank the Parents Club for the great catering and Doug Cobbedick for all the work he did. We also thank all the teachers for all their work before and on the day and we also thank all the parents and grandparents who came down to cheer the children on.

The results of the day are:

Winning team: Yellow  Boys Championship: First: Will Sheehan
Second team: Green  Equal First: Breanne Walpole & Abbey Bell
Third team: Red  Second: Jake Brown
Fourth team: Blue  Third: Mak Hindmarsh

Congratulations to our champions and to the Yellow team. Well done everyone!