Prayer of the week

Praying for our needs

Leader: Let us begin our prayer together by making the Sign of the Cross: 
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry, but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. This is the word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: St Paul is inviting us here to live as Jesus has asked us to live, with happiness, tolerance and love, and to pray for our needs to our Father in Heaven. He has reminded us that our Father will provide what we need, each day, and so we pray quietly for these...

Leader: Together let us pray:
All: Lord, there can be so many distractions for us every day. Help us to pause to make ourselves ready to celebrate Your coming at Christmas. Teach us to appreciate the gifts you bring – love, joy, happiness, freedom and peace. Give us the grace to invite you into our hearts every day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Key Dates

2015
December:
15th Out of Uniform Day and St Francis Back Yard Blitz!
16th End of Year Christmas Mass & Graduation
17th Students last day of school. Normal 3.20 pm Finish
18th Staff last day-

2016
January:
25th Staff resume
26th Australia Day holiday
28th Students First day

February
4th Hello Night
5th Opening school Mass
9th Shrove Tuesday
10th Ash Wednesday
16th School Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Thank you St Francis Community for a wonderful year.

As this is our final newsletter for the year I would to take the time to thank the many people who work tirelessly for our wonderful school community.

It has been an incredible year of learning, juggling, listening, observing and trying to understand my role as principal. The complexities are huge but the highlights immense. As I have mentioned before (on a few occasions now) I am very grateful for the hospitality and kindness bestowed to me and my family from all levels across our community, and in reflection of the year we have had, there has been much to celebrate and still plenty to look forward to.

Thank you to all parents who have put their hand up and helped out on many occasions including: Hello Night, Pancake Tuesday, swimming / water fun days, football clinics, learning walks, library visits, reading in the mornings, Care Team provisions, super dooper days, grandparents days, book week, dress-up days, working bees, social events and everything in between. Without the generosity of our parent community much of what we do would be impossible and the children would miss out on many opportunities. The inclusive spirit among our families is supportive of our school’s reputation and together we will continue to look for ways to be more inclusive and welcoming of others into this amazing community, St Francis Nathalia.

Thank you especially to our school board. We have an incredible team of members who work diligently in governance and leading strategically the direction of our school. Thank you especially to Jim Brereton in his role as school board chair and to all members for their valuable input and contributions throughout the year. Thank you…

~ Jim Brereton, Alison Deitrich, Leanne Halden, Bronwyn Bramwell, Rob Myers, Dean Limbrick, Veronica Daniel, Veronica Williams, Louise Robertson, Anna Newman and Fr Chris Reay.

Thank you to our staff who selflessly give much of themselves when providing engaging learning experiences for all students in their care. We are very lucky to have such a hard working and diverse staff. I am forever grateful and proud of their commitment and for their gift of generosity. We have many exciting programs and opportunities to look forward to. I hope our staff find the time to rest and relax over Christmas — they truly deserve it!

Thank you especially to Veronica Williams for her support in her role as Deputy Principal, Catholic Identity coordinator and ICT coordinator. Ronnie is an amazing person who works incredibly hard in her multiple rolls. Her commitment and love for the school is to be admired and for that we are very grateful. Thanks Ronnie.

Thank you to our students. They are the heart and soul of our school and are the reason we do what we do. It has been lovely to see the growth and maturity of all students across the school throughout the year. To see our students learning and interacting the way they do is testament to their keenness and desire to learn. We have beautiful students and we are very proud of their achievements.

Congratulations to our year six students who graduate at the end of next week. They have been a wonderful group of leaders for our school and their leadership and guidance for our younger students has been greatly appreciated. We wish them all every success for the future.

And finally, thank you to Fr Chris Reay. I have only got to know Fr Chris properly for the past 12 months and for all who know him understands Fr C is a man of genuine humility and humbleness. What you see is what you get. His intellect and sense of humour adheres him as a person who you genuinely like to be around and he authentically cares for all people. It has been an absolute honour to work with Fr Chris and on behalf of our school community I would like to thank Fr Chris for his pastoral service and faithful leadership of our schools and parish communities. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Fr Chris at this time.

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year! May Christ’s message of the love and peace be with us all.

Chris Summers
Principal

Fr. Chris Update.
Fr. Chris is out of hospital and is currently staying at St Patrick’s presbytery in Melbourne across the road from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. His condition is on the improve although he requires regular monitoring and supervision of his condition. We continue to pray for Fr. Chris at this time.
Our School News

St Francis School Captains 2016

Congratulations to our school captains for 2016 and congratulations to all of our year 5 students for your presentations last Friday. They were amazing! Like this year our senior students will be great leaders and ambassadors for our school.

Congratulations to…

School Captains: Kate Francis and Mak Hindmarsh

School Vice Captains: Nikita Pawlowicz and Darcy Backway

School Care Box Award

Out of Uniform Day ~ St Francis Sustainability and Backyard Blitz Day ~ Tuesday 15th

Next Tuesday we are having an out of Uniform Day to celebrate reaching our goal of 500 care box tickets. Students are encouraged to come to school in casual clothes ~ nothing to fancy as we are planning to get stuck into the yard and classrooms for a clean up before the school holidays.

Swimming Program Concludes on Monday Dec 14th

Our swimming program concludes next Monday 14th Dec. Thank you to all volunteers who have helped walk students to and from school and who have helped supervise students at the pool. Thanks also to Kylie Botterill for running a fantastic program and to Brodie Ross for coordinating students into correct groups.

Transition Day last Tuesday 8th December

It was great to see the many new students and families at our Transition Day last Tuesday. Our students were very excited to spend time in their class groups for next year.

End of year Celebration and Graduation ~ December 16th 6:30pm St Mary’s Church

Change of Venue: We are now holding our End of year Celebration and Graduation in St Mary’s Church starting at 6:30pm followed by a shared supper, which will be held at school in the undercover area. Please bring a plate of supper to share.

Farewell to six of our school community families:
We sincerely thank all of our families who are leaving our school community. We are forever grateful for their time and contribution they have made to our school.

Brinsdon Family
Colman Family
Brown Family
Kolundzija Family
Parker Family
Webb Family

Best wishes and thank you!

Christmas Carols ~ School Concert ~ Social Gathering ~ Congratulations!

Last night we celebrated a wonderful night of singing and socialising on SMOTA oval. Each Learning Community performed a few Christmas Carols each with the senior students doing a wonderful job introducing each performance. The whole school finale ‘Everything is Awesome’ was awesome. Well done!

Raffle Tickets ~ School Voucher

Keep up the good work in selling the tickets for the School Voucher. If you have sold your book of tickets, please feel free to
Our School News

drop them into the school office prior to 18 December 2015.

Walker Learning
In the past few weeks I have attached WLA Philosophy and Pedagogy, the Key Principles Guiding the WLA and the Early Years Walker Learning Approach. This week I have attached:

WL Overview Years 3 to 8
Walker Learning provides a platform of practical strategies to schools which seek high levels of student engagement and motivation across middle and upper primary and early secondary years with opportunities for students to be independent learners who are acquiring skills for learning and for life, not just "content".

The emphasis of WL is not just about the "what" (curriculum) but most importantly about the "how" (pedagogy).

The philosophy and implementation of WL consistently demonstrates that engaging children is the first fundamental 'must' for successful teaching and learning in a sustained way.

"Compliance does not equate to engagement"

The middle and upper years of primary often reflect increased dissatisfaction and disengagement of children with their learning. We want to set children up in the middle and primary years to succeed, to thrive and flourish rather than just cope or struggle or fail. We want children as they transition into the middle primary years to enter another seamless set of strategies that build upon their first three years of school; that will provide continuity, consistency and continue to provide opportunities for individual interests.

The transition between grade two to three is also viewed as a significant pathway into another part of child development. Children move out of the unique characteristics that define the early childhood years and into a slightly higher level of thinking, processing and understanding. WL seeks to ensure that children moving from their early childhood classrooms into the higher grades also are provided with a seamless and consistent set of practices and strategies that maximise engagement and motivation. We want children in these years to have a sense of empowerment and ownership of their own learning, to view the learning process as meaningful to their lives now and for the future. We want them to have a range of choices within the limits set by the teacher and to learn to identity some of their own learning needs as well as to continue to build upon their self esteem and identity.

Teaching and learning in the 21st century requires acknowledgement that successful education needs to provide a set of fundamental foundation skills that are transferable and adaptable for whatever the future holds.

WL not only ensures that curriculum obligations for "content" and skills are maintained and enhanced but it is achieved by teaching strategies that truly and effectively engage, empower and provide greater ownership and choice for students. It is after all, the students learning that is most important, not educators predetermined interests/topics.
Some of the key intentions and aims of Walker Learning in the year levels 3-8 are designed to:

- Provide a voice for students to express their opinions
- To learn to appreciate and respect the views of others
- To develop their own value system and appreciate the different values of wider society
- To relate the issues, skills and knowledge of science, history, health, politics, literacy and numeracy, technology and other areas of learning to their own lives and to develop transferable and relevant skills
- To develop effective interpersonal skills in relationships and communication skills
- To develop creativity, exploration and open mindedness
- To grow in awareness of the world, society and associated issues that impact on the world.
- Communication board for greeting and meeting each morning, posting affirmations, information, clinic teaching groups, quotes and learning intentions.
- Weekly Class meetings which relate to external, global or community needs and issues rather than in house behavioral issues.
- Learning Environment that is set up to reflect personal choices in where to sit, in groups, alone, with furniture that has a range of options including tables, sofas, workshop areas, technology.
- Education Research Project each term which replaces traditional topics of inquiry and relates to National Curriculum subject areas for content but where students also include an issue of interest from their own lives
- Literacy and numeracy continues explicitly in discreet teaching modules but is also included in ERP’s
- Clinic groups of small teaching led by teachers and by students and other community members

**Quote of the Week:**
Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year.

Joel Osteen
SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ

This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Perseverance

"Perseverance is a quality where the process is more important than the end result. It is difficult for students (and adults) to see that anything is gained by trying constantly, sometimes without success. One successful goal easily balances out many failures. Perseverance helps to build strong character.

In Weeks 10 & 11 our Social Skills Blitz was around Perseverance. The following students were nominated by their peers and teachers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Jazmine Madden, Matthew Jorgensen, Aiden Bryant, Harry Morgan, Riley James, Nikita Pawlowicz, Charlie Dietrich, Hannah Summerville, Chloe Hildebrand and Ebony James.

Winner of the care box was Erin Hassell.

Reading Awards: Zahlia Kautai.
Keep up the great work everyone. 😊
Congratulations Everyone!
Temporarily bus stop closures and diversion for Nathalia V/Line bus services

Effective, Thursday 31 December 2015

Due to the Nathalia New Year’s Eve Carnival on Blake Street, V/Line bus services will be diverted and will not be servicing the V/Line bus stop on Blake Street near the Veterinary Surgery.

This will affect customers travelling on the 4.15pm and 9.42pm services to Barmah.

Customers are advised to use the temporary bus stop approximately 150 metres south on Blake Street near the corner of Pearce Street, outside of the Police Station.

For more information visit ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007 (7am – midnight daily)

PIANO LESSONS 2016

Andrea Baker is again offering piano lessons to our students in 2016. Andrea attends the school to conduct the lessons. Please contact Andrea on 5862 2017 or 0447 110 906.
Nathalia Community

Carols by Candlelight

will be held at St Mary of the Angels’ Outdoor Theatre on the College Oval
Friday 11th December 2015, 7.00pm

Carols by Candlelight is a community event and will include performances from our local schools, and church groups.

Santa will be making an appearance!

Refreshments available for purchase.

Please BYO Picnic blanket or Chair.

For further information please contact Vanessa Byrnes at St Mary of the Angels on 03 58662222.