Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy Holidays!!

To the Staff, Students and Families of St Francis

Wishing you all a happy, safe, prosperous and loving Christmas with your family and friends.

I am looking forward to finally meeting you all, working alongside staff, students and parents to continue to help St Francis thrive and flourish as a united and passionate community.

God Bless and enjoy your holidays! Merry Christmas.

Chris Summers

Dear Parents,

What a busy end of the term it has been. Reports are done and the clean up has begun, but in the busy-ness of it all we need to stop and thank all who have contributed to our school community in 2014. There are so many people that add to the success of our school, so whether it has been through cooking a meal for the care team, being a part of a committee or the board, running a class activity, teaching, answering phones, mending a sore knee, applying an ice pack, cleaning up rubbish or any other of the myriad of things that need to happen to keep a school working - we thank you.

Yesterday we were fortunate to interview some very talented teachers for our part-time position and we are very excited to announce that Lisa Booth will be joining our teaching team in 2014. Lisa lives north of Kyabram with her husband and 4 children and is excited about becoming part of our school community. She will be a fabulous addition to our year 3/4 unit.

Wishing you all a restful break, and a very merry Christmas.

Veronica Williams

Welcome to the world, Henry Isaac Parish.
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Cooperation. Cooperation is the act of working together or jointly; of being united in producing an effect. By developing cooperation skills, students build relationships as they complete tasks, utilizing their own skills and those of others to their best advantage. Cooperating encourages students to compromise and negotiate and creates opportunities for unity and harmony to occur.

In Week 10 our Social Skills Blitz was around cooperation. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Declan Begley, Nate Summerville, Mia Spiteri, Charlie Dietrich, Josephine McInnes and Breanne Walpole.

Congratulations everyone

We also say congratulations to Ryan Dealy and Joshua Woods who were awarded the “Peter Bourke Encouragement Award – Junior Public Speaking”. Well done Josh and Ryan.

We also say congratulations to Ella Johns and Ben Nave who won the FMDM award. Well done Ella and Ben.

An Advent Prayer

‘The Word became flesh and lived amongst us.’ (John 1:14)
Emmanuel! The God of Peace is with us!

A Blessing of Peace
Deep peace, pure gold of the sun to you.
Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you
Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you
Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you.
Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you.
Deep peace, pure light of the dew to you.
Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the whispering trees to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.
(Adapted from an Irish prayer)

We praise and thank God in Jesus’ name at Christmas, for all the blessings and gifts of this school year. Lord you are holy indeed. You are the Son of the Father, here amongst us. Guide us into the way of peace. Blessed be your name, now and forever.

Amen.
HEAD LICE:
Please be aware that we have had another outbreak of head lice. We ask parents to check their children’s hair and treat accordingly. The school holiday period is a great opportunity to break the head lice cycle.

FOUNDATION (formerly Prep) START TIME:
Our foundation students will commence school on the same day as everyone else, however, their start time is 9.30 a.m. On the first day we ask our foundation students and their families to gather in the school library for a family photo before heading off to class.

THANK YOU:
We take this opportunity to thank Kylie Botterill and her fabulous co-instructors for the fantastic swimming program that we have just completed. Enjoy the action shots from the pool!

2015 STAFF DETAILS:
Staff for 2015
Principal: Mr Chris Summers
Deputy Principal & Catholic Identity Leader: Veronica Williams

Classrooms
Foundation: Kerry Conroy (Monday – Thursday) & Fiona Baker (Friday)
1/2M: Elli Mestrom
1/2N: Anna Newman
3/4M: Karyn Miller
3/4J: Shirley Jean & Lisa Booth
5/6R: Brodie Ross
5/6W: Veronica Williams

Other
Sport: Brodie Ross
Art: Fiona Baker (F-2, 5/6), Lisa Booth (3/4)
French: Shirley Jean
Wellbeing: Tam Perry
Special Education: Fiona Baker
Library Technician: Kris Scott. Classroom teachers to take their own library on Tuesdays when Kris is in.
Foundation Support: Jade Graham
1/2N & 3/4M Support: Paula Thompson, Betty Guerra
3/4J Support: Tam Perry, Betty Guerra
5/6 Support: Louise Robertson
Front Office: Veronica Daniel
Finance: Louise Robertson
COMMUNITY NEWS

YALCA NORTH

Yalca North will be conducting a Tennis Hot Shots Community Play program over the summer holidays. It is a program designed for kids aged 5 years and older to learn tennis skills using modified equipment.

The program will be run over four weeks every Wednesday afternoon at 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at the Yalca North Recreation Reserve beginning on 7 January 2015.

To register or for further information please contact Pam Smith on 0400 076 223.

PIANO LESSONS 2015
Andrea Baker is again offering piano lessons at St Francis Primary School in 2015.

Contact Andrea on 5862 2017 or 0447 110906.

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Our school community acknowledges that we are built in the country of the Yorta Yorta people. We pay respect to the tribal elders, and celebrate the continuing indigenous culture in and around the Nathalia area.