Prayer of the week

Prayer ~ The Journey Begins

The Journey Begins
As we step into this new year,
Restore our spirits.
Renew our passion for sharing your wisdom
And nurture our compassion
for those in need of greater support.
Transform us as we seek to transform:
Guide us as we seek to guide;
Open our minds and hearts
As we seek to open minds and hearts
To the Good News of justice and peace.
Help us listen more deeply
To the world and to your Word,
So we can walk with those in our care,
Attentive to the Wisdom that
Calls us all to the Kingdom of God.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Last night we opened our doors to our community for our annual Hello Night. It was a fantastic evening for parents to welcome new members to our school and to catch up with old friends whom we may not have seen for a while.

The main purpose of Hello Night was for parents to visit their child/ren’s classrooms and to see the magnificent work both teachers and students have been doing in the past week and a bit. It was wonderful see so many families turn out ‘en-mass’ to visit our learning spaces and say hello to teachers and to catch up socially. It was wonderful to meet many new faces and for our new families to have a chance to say hello and meet others. Having the opportunity to do this is very important especially to build connections and relationships that will further impact possibilities throughout the year.

A huge thank you to the champions who volunteered to help set up and cook the BBQ, man the Ferris Wheel and ensured our night was a great success. Your work is much appreciated and has certainly not gone unnoticed.

If the success of our hello night is anything to go by, I am very excited for the year ahead and look forward to canvassing further opportunities that can bring our community together.

**Opening School Mass ~ Thursday 11th, 9:30am ~ St Mary’s Oval**
This Thursday SMOTA and St Francis will combine to co-celebrate an opening school mass on the oval. It will be a great opportunity for both schools and their communities to join together to celebrate mass as one, and as in the same spirit as when our staffs came together, our communities can unite connected as people of faith.

Our school captains: Mak Hindmarsh, Kate Francis, Nikita Pawlowicz and Darcy Backway will be presented with their school badges and commissioned as our school leaders for 2016. We look forward to a great gathering this coming Thursday. For those who can stay, morning tea will be provided after Mass.

**Thoughts and Prayers ~ Ella and Fr. Chris**
We continue to pray for Ella and her family as she commences her treatment this week. We continue to pray for Fr Chris as he continues to receive treatment and care in Bendigo. For all others in our community who are ill or needing special care our thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Year 6 Leaders Day ~ Friday 12th Feb**
Next Friday the 12th of February, our year 6’s will join with students from the Catholic Schools from across the Goulburn Valley in a Leadership Day in Mooroopna. They will have various quest speakers who will explore with them what it means to be a leader. Brodie Ross, Tam Perry and I will accompany the students on the day.

**Pancake Tuesday**
We will be cooking pancakes next Tuesday, 9 February 2016 and ask students for a gold coin donation. Funds raised go to Caritas Australia. Donations of shake and bake pancake mix will be gratefully accepted for Tuesday, 9 February 2016. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the Roman Catholic Church. "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance. Caritas Australia is the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development in Australia. The organisation is part of Caritas Internationalism, an international confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and
Our School News

social service organisations working to build a better world for the poorest of the poor in over 200 countries and territories.

SAVE THE DATE
On Tuesday 16th February, an Information Evening for parents will be held in our Gathering Space at 7PM. For catering purposes please fill in the attached attendance sheet to indicate your availability for this evening.

For more information regarding the Walker Learning Approach please visit: http://earlylife.com.au/info/section/walker-learning

Please don’t hesitate to contact the school for further information.

School Voucher
The School Voucher raffle tickets will all need to be returned to school by Friday, 26 February 2015. The raffle will be drawn at assembly on Monday, 29 February 2016. If you have sold your book of tickets please return them to the school. A reminder that the first prize is $500.00 voucher, second prize is $200.00 and third prize is $100.00, with the vouchers to be used towards school expenses (i.e. hats / backpacks / reduction of school fees etc).

Electronic Copies of Newsletter ~ Friday 19th February
Please Note: In our quest to reduce our carbon footprint, by Friday 19th February we are going to email electronic copies of our weekly newsletter and continue to post on our Facebook page. Please contact the office if this is not an option for you.

Positive Behaviour Support Workshop
There is a great opportunity for parents and carers of students or young adults with autism to attend a workshop in Benalla on Monday 29th February. The workshop is to be held at the Benalla All Blacks Football Netball Club, Ackerley Ave, Benalla. For further information please go to www.autismspectrum.org.au or telephone number 9377 6600.

Piano Lessons
Andrea Baker will be starting Piano Lessons next Friday 12th February. Please contact the office for further details.

St Francis School Assemblies
Monday Mornings 9:00am in the Gathering Space.

Hoax Phone Calls to Victorian Schools
This is a message to reassure our community in light of the recent hoax phone calls in the last few days our school has not received such a call. Like all schools, St Francis has a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in place covering all types of emergencies and we practise these throughout the year.
The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

If there are any questions please contact the school.

To all concession card holders: Camps, Sports and Excursions Funds (CSEF)
CSEF eligibility is subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27th January 2016) or term two (11th April 2016). Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29th February 2016 so that payments can be made from March 2016. Schools can take applications up to 3rd June 2016.

The annual payment to the school is to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. Primary school students rate is $125 per year.

If you hold a current health care card, please see Louise at school office for an application form.

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KIDS TENNIS LESSONS
Delivered by Tennis Australia qualified coaches
Classes available for adults and children from 3+ years
ANZ Tennis Hot Shots player pathway 3-12 years
Groups, Privates and Squads (9+ years)
Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club (next to Aquamoves)
View our class schedule & enrol online > www.keystonetennis.com/enrol
Enquiries to Luke Dixon > office@keystonetennis.com | 0407 476 041

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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.