Dear Parents and Friends,

Tonight our school board will gather for prayer as we begin our School Board meeting, we will pray together;

Thank you, Jesus, for my children. Thank you for teaching me so much about You through them and for teaching me so much about them through You. Amen

Hope filled education is our goal. Hope filled education where our children are central to all of decisions, plans, dreams and hopes which are articulated through our school board, our staff team, our parents and our commitment to working beside our neighboring schools and our parish community. We are working hard to promote and provide education based on the principles of respect, responsibility and community through exploration and discovery in a supportive and enriching environment. Our children are so valuable! When we become parents we realize that our children don’t really belong to us. Our children are separate and individual little people with wills and souls of their own. There is a great trust placed upon us to take this on as a spiritual mandate. Jesus revered the status of children when he said, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14) If we believe the kingdom of God belongs to our children then we need to structure the environment around their needs, we need to provide quality materials for their learning experiences, and most importantly we need to listen to them with a deep respect.

God has blessed all of us with the ability to learn. When we watch a child learn to walk, or see the joy of a two year old whose language is exploding daily, we realize how much the ability to learn is within them. For us working in Catholic Education this begs the question - do we need to educate our kids at all? Can’t they learn most of what they need to by observing what’s happening around them? In many ways, yes! The scary reality is that our kids are being taught passively, all the time. We need to ‘understand the delicate role of adults in allowing children to take the lead while also encouraging the child to wonder, notice, and make relationships that allow new levels of understanding to develop.” (from the Reggio Emilia information exchange). Essentially it is a balancing act! We want to value what our children bring while at the same time providing them with quality information and an environment, experiences and materials that allow them to explore and learn. As teachers we all look at this differently, and rightly so because each teacher is as unique as each child. Our ultimate goal is that everyone interacts with each other, listens to each other, values each other and learns from each other. Growth for all of us comes through both our successes and our mistakes. As teachers we are great at recognizing that mistakes are fantastic opportunities and jumping off points for new learning for our children, we need to also extend this thinking to ourselves and all of the adults around us.

Jesus, you are our greatest teacher of all. Help us to teach as you did, through our relationships, through our story, through our actions. Amen

Blessings for the week ahead,

Claire Kelly
JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING
The Lions Club Junior Public Speaking competition is being held this Wednesday, 23 July 2014 at the Nathalia Senior Citizens Clubrooms, Harcourt St Nathalia commencing at 7.00 p.m. sharp. We wish Abbey Bell, Maddison Pawlowicz, Jack Myers, Kate Kelly and Nikita Pawlowicz the best of luck when they represent our school on Wednesday night. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

RHONDA M TALLNASH – CHILDREN’S AUTHOR
The children thoroughly enjoyed their time with Rhonda Tallnash when she visited the school last week. You are still able to purchase any of Rhonda’s books for the remainder of this week. Each book is $12.50 and orders shall close on this Friday, 25 July 2014. Please contact the front office if you wish to purchase any of Rhonda’s books.

PARENT & FRIENDS NEWS
The parents and friends club will once again be running a snack stall at this year’s school concert on Wednesday, 30 July 2014 any willing volunteers please let the office know and a member will get in touch with you.

Monster Car Boot and Community Garage Sale - Sunday August 3rd from 9am. We will be holding a car boot sale and sausage sizzle at the school as well as supporting several garage sales around the town on the same day. Sites available for tables or car boots at the school $10 each or $5 to get your garage sale listed on our map. There will be a second hand uniform stall and a school stall also. If you have “TREASURE” hanging around your house or shed but don’t wish to man your own stall call Denise 0400 052 428 or text Louise 0408 797 632 to donate to the school stall. The whole community is invited to attend, so make sure you tell your friends and neighbours. Contact the above numbers for any enquiries.

The Parent & Friends Club are holding a Wood Raffle for a 6x4 trailer of firewood – raffle will be drawn at noon on Sunday 3 August 2014 at the Monster Car Boot sale. Tickets are $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00. Tickets available from the school office.

SAVE THE DATE! BOGAN BINGO, Friday, 24 October 2014 at St Francis Primary School. Pop this date in your diary – an opportunity to dress up as a bogan and try your luck at bingo. Further details will be provided closer to the date. Our Parents & Friends team is looking for donations for this Term Four fundraising event – all donations are welcome. Could you provide a bottle of wine, a box of chocolates or do you have a service to donate? Please contact Denise Butler on 0400 052 428 or Lonky at the School Office.

A huge THANK YOU to the Parents & Friends Club for the donation of $3,500.00 to our school. These funds are the results of the hard work that our Parents & Friends Club members put into raising money for our school and we are extremely appreciative of their fantastic efforts. All the funds donated to the school go towards supporting our children’s learning.

HEAD LICE CHECK – A whole school head lice check will be held on Thursday, 31 July 2014. If you are able to help out with the check please contact the school office. We appreciate any amount of time that you are able to give. A natural alternative treatment using coconut oil and apple cider vinegar is included in this newsletter.

ST FRANCIS SUSTAINABILITY TEAM
St Francis Primary School Sustainability team has fresh chook and duck eggs for sale. Half a dozen eggs - $1.50 or you can purchase individual eggs at $0.25 an egg. Money raised will be used to purchase more ducks and chooks for the school.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE ARE BUILT IN THE COUNTRY OF THE YORTA YORTA PEOPLE. WE PAY RESPECT TO THE TRIBAL ELDER, AND CELEBRATE THE CONTINUING INDIGENOUS CULTURE IN AND AROUND THE NATHALIA AREA.
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”.

In week 1 our Social Skills Blitz was around Responsibility. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:

Lauren Cobledick, Aiden Botterill, Lachlan Williams, Daniel Chisholm, Nicola Oliver, Indiya Parker and Samantha McInnes

**Congratulations Everyone!!**

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER**

The Christmas in July school fundraiser held on Saturday, 19 July 2014 at Brereton’s Bakery was a great success with 33 people attending and enjoying a beautiful four-course meal. The bakery was transformed with lovely Christmas decorations and, of course, a spectacular Christmas tree! Raffles were held throughout the night with some great prizes (together with the mandatory “joke” prizes) being won and some spirited bidding on the auction items, the most vigorous of all being the voucher to The Mill in Echuca. The night raised just over $1,500.00 for our school. A definite figure will be included in next week’s newsletter.

We thank the following: Brereton's for the use of their premises, Jim Brereton and Adrian Pawlowicz for the awesome food, Kristy Brereton, Sheree Spiteri, Maddison and Nikita Pawlowicz, Ella and Kian Brereton for the decorations, Kristy Brereton, Regina Pawlowicz and Lily Banfield for helping with the waitressing, Sharon Cahoon for her TV footage, Ben and Cath Dealy, The Bramwell family, The Mill Echuca and Brereton's Bakery for their donations, Laura Burns-Smith, Jess Brooks, and Sam Wallace for the fabulous entertainment and to Steve and Hayley Summerville and John and Michelle Sheehan for helping to restore the bakery, ready for the next morning. Finally, thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the night the success it was.

**A NATURAL ALTERNATIVE HEAD LICE TREATMENT**

You will need: A jar of coconut oil and a bottle of apple cider vinegar. First, rinse your hair with the vinegar, don’t wash it out, leave it in until it dries. The vinegar dissolves the “glue” which sticks the eggs to the hair follicles. When the vinegar has dried, pour coconut oil into the hair, making sure you get complete coverage. Cover the hair with a shower cap or hair wrap and leave it in for the whole day, as it will take a few hours for the coconut oil to smother and kill the lice. Comb the hair to get as many of the eggs and lice out as possible and then shampoo as normal. You should only have to do this once and no chemicals have been used. The coconut oil makes the hair beautiful and shiny!

As a school community our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to communities across the globe following the tragedy of MH17 and the loss of so many innocent lives.

**Comfort those in pain with your love O God.**
**Wrap them up in Your strong embrace.**
**Shelter them from the storm O Lord.**
**Envelope us all in Your tender care.**
**Amen.**
We also have some other exciting news to share! We were informed recently that we have been successful in attaining a $20,000 grant, which will support the implementation of languages other than English (French) at St Francis. Shirley and Claire will be participating in the Leading Languages Professional Learning Program (LLPLP) this year as part of the grant requirements. This four day program will support us to improve the language learning experiences for our students. At the end of this four-day program, we will form a ‘Languages Implementation Plan’ aligned with our current school improvement priorities. We will also receive diocesan coaching support and the $20,000 grant to implement our plan. This is great opportunity for our school; only four Sandhurst schools have been chosen to be part of the program - so great news for us! Thank you Ronnie for putting the grant together. Thank you also to Shirley for all of the wonderful French experiences you have provided for our children over the years! This great work already undertaken by Shirley means we are ready to undertake the LLPLP, which will see us leaders in the provision of languages teaching in years to come. We look forward to the great learning which will come from this opportunity.

FRENCH WITH SHIRLEY JEAN

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Above: Nikita Pawlowicz and Ella Brereton with their first prize for their joint entry in the Nathalia Early Learning Centre caterpillar competition.

Jack Myers practising his speech for the Junior Public Speaking.

Rhonda Tallnash – children’s author reading to our Gr Prep/1 students.

SCHOOL CONCERT

An email has been forwarded to all parents outlining the costumes for the school concert and this has also been put up on our Facebook page. If you have not received this email please telephone the school office for details. Thank you.