Key Dates

**October:**
- 21st: GV Deanery School Board Meeting in Shep
- 23rd: St Francis Community Group Meeting 3.30 pm Library
- 25th & 26th: Gr3/4 camp
- 27th: Strawberry Festival

**November:**
- 2nd: Bishops holiday
- 3rd: Melb Cup holiday
- 9th: St Francis Community Group Meeting
- 10th: Jump Start
- 17th: Jump Start Reconciliation 7 pm St Mary's Church
- 24th: Jump Start School Board meeting
- 9th: St Francis Community Group Meeting
- 10th: Jump Start
- 17th: Jump Start Reconciliation 7 pm St Mary's Church
- 24th: Jump Start School Board meeting
- 25th & 26th: Gr3/4 camp
- 27th: Strawberry Festival

**December:**
- 1st: Jump Start
- 2nd: GV Festival of the Sacred
- 8th: Orientation Day & Information Session for Parents
- 10th: School Christmas Carols/Concert
- 11th: Nathalia Community Carols by Candlelight
- 16th: End of Year Christmas Mass & Graduation
- 17th: Students last day of school

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**Educating The Whole Child For Today and Tomorrow.**
A school community that recognises learning is natural, creative and ongoing

**Prayer of the week ~ Back by Popular Demand**

~ Pope Francis ~

**5 Finger Prayer**

1) The thumb is closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "Sweet Obligation."

2) The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.

3) The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.

4) The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.

5) And finally we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

**Today's Prayer with the Pope**

**2015**

**Daily offering:**
Holy Spirit of love, you moved the waters and gave light and form and colour to our world. You fill all things with life and beauty and give to our hearts the joy of love; fill my mind with your light, so that I may rejoice in your creation and in my happiness raise my heart to you.

Amen.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Welcome back to term 4! It has been a nice week to return to school from an extended break over the holidays. My family and I had a wonderful holiday to the US and shared many lasting experiences whilst travelling with friends. It was certainly great to get away to see another part of the world and experience another culture for a while, although on return you do appreciate what we have and where you live. We are a very lucky country.

Our last term for the year is shaping up to be very busy and there is much on the horizon to look forward to. Please refer to important dates on the front page for a detailed overview of events.

**St Francis School Fair ~ A fantastic Community Day**
Our School Fair last Sunday was a huge success with a substantial amount being raised (final figure to be finalized). A special thank you to Denise Butler, Tam Perry and their hard working team for the enormous amount of work they put in to make the day the success it was. It was a wonderful event to bring the community together on many levels and was another first for our school and will only get bigger and better as we are hoping to make this part of a biannual major fund raiser for our school. A follow-up committee meeting will be held in the coming weeks to review our Fair and to discuss ideas for the future.

**St Francis Community Group ~ (Formally P&F)**
This year we have managed to operate community events and fundraisers without a fully functional Community Group. Although we have managed to get by quite successfully, the current format isn’t ideal and can’t be sustained without leadership in the form of a President or committee. A Community Group meeting is being held on Monday 9th November at 3:30pm in the school library / gathering space to discuss proposals for next year. All welcome!

**Reconciliation Program**
Reconciliation preparation has begun with 11 students committed to making this very important stage of their sacramental journey. The program will run for the next 4 consecutive Monday evenings and the children will make their first reconciliation on Tuesday 17th November at 7pm. Thank you to Veronica Williams for coordinating our sacramental program. We pray for the following students as they commence their sacramental journey: Lachlan Williams, Sasha Daniel, Mia Spiteri, Charlie Dietrich, Ruby McIver, Clancy Baker, Logan Daniel, AJ Brooks, Zara Limbrick, Brady Walpole and Callum McKeown.

**St Francis Feast Day**
Last Thursday we celebrated the feast day of our Patron Saint ~ St Francis of Assisi. The actual date of St Francis Feast Day was October 4th however because it was the last Sunday of the school holidays we celebrated this special event for our school on Thursday last week. It was a wonderful day starting with a special prayer liturgy run by our year 5/6 leaders. After recess our students enjoyed games and activities focusing on St Francis and our Foundational Order of Sisters the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood. A shared lunch was provided and the children finished the day with a reflection on what they enjoyed and learned. Well done to all those involved in the organization of our special day.

**Nathalia Men’s Shed Opening**
On Wednesday our Year 6 students attended the official opening of the Nathalia Men’s Shed. Many of our Year 6’s have participated in the YEMP (Youth Engagement Mentoring Program) throughout the year and have used the Men’s Shed as a base for participating in activities. We are very grateful to the many Volunteers at the Men’s Shed who help out every week and provide our students with learning opportunities they wouldn’t normally get in a classroom or school setting. I was very proud of the way in which our students conducted themselves throughout the official opening and spoke to various dignitaries such as our local members of parliament.

**Congratulations to our Athletic Stars!!**
Last Friday our 3-6 students participated in the Interschool Sports with all year levels taking out the shield for each division. Congratulations to all of our students for the way in which they participated with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Many of our students then competed on Monday at the School Zone Athletics with several of our young superstars going on to the Regional Athletics being held in Albury today. We congratulate and wish the following students every success today: Mak Hindmarsh, Jake Brown, Mia Bell, Gus Bramwell, Will Sheehan, Charlie Sheehan and Ebony James.

Chris Summers
Our School News

Other School Happenings...

ZOOPER DOOPER FRIDAY’S ARE BACK!

Commencing next Friday, 23 October 2015 the St Francis Community Group will again be running Zooper Dooper Fridays. Zooper Doopers will be available at lunch time at a cost of 50 cents

UK Study Tour ~ Congratulations Anna Newman

Our best wishes are extended to Anna Newman who is currently participating in this year’s UK Study Tour for 16 days of learning. Anna will return on Sunday 26th October. The theme of this year’s study is; “Establishing a Culture of Improvement” (What really makes a difference for student learning and how does this occur? How does collaborative practice within and across education settings support the development of this culture? What role does creative thinking play in establishing a culture of improvement? The group will be co-led by Phil Brown from Country Education Project & Michael Hopkinson, Deputy Director.

Summer Uniform…a reminder

**GIRLS:**
- Kilt - navy with blue or navy blue pants
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt
- St Francis School Maroon Windcheater
- Navy tights / navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black shoes / Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)

**Summer Uniform**
- School dress - navy with blue maroon stripe
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt / navy blue shorts / skirt
- Navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black shoes / Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)

**SPORT UNIFORM**
- Navy blue shorts / skirt or navy blue tracksuit pants (no stripes or external labels)
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt
- Navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)

**BOYS:**
- Navy blue pants
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt
- St Francis School Maroon Windcheater
- Navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black shoes / Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)

**Summer Uniform**
- Navy blue shorts
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt
- Navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black shoes / Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)

**SPORT UNIFORM**
- Navy blue shorts or navy blue tracksuit pants (no stripes or external labels)
- Blue St Francis School polo shirt
- Navy or white socks (no labels)
- Black or white sneakers.
- (No brightly coloured sneakers please)
Quote of the Week:
Each person holds so much power within themselves that needs to be let out. Sometimes they just need a little nudge, a little direction, a little support, a little coaching, and the greatest things can happen.  
Pete Carroll

2015 Joseph Furphy Commemorative Literary Prize Closing date: 16 October 2015 ~ Last day!!

Short Story and Poetry writing competition. Short Story competition has three sections. Open section, story of up to 3,500 words, prize $300. Youth section (13 – 18 years), story of up to 3,000 words, prize $100. Junior section (up to 12 years), story of up to 1,500 words, prize $50. Poetry competition has two sections. Open section, poem of up to 40 lines, prize $150. Youth section (up to 18 years), poem of up to 30 lines, prize $75. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form. $3 entry fee for each entry in Open sections. For Conditions of Entry and Entry Form go to any Goulburn Valley Libraries branch library, or www.gvlibraries.com.au or phone Jan Sutton at GV Libraries Administration on 1300 374 765. Competition proudly sponsored by the Furphy Foundry Pty Ltd.

Food For Thought...

A psychologist walked around a room while teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the “half empty or half full” question. Instead, with a smile on her face, she inquired: “How heavy is this glass of water?” Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, “The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.” She continued, “The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralyzed – incapable of doing anything.” It’s important to remember to let go of your stresses. As early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Remember to put the glass down!

How heavy is this glass of water?

FAMILY BADMINTON NIGHTS

NATHALIA COMMUNITY CENTRE  
THURSDAY NIGHTS @ 6.00 P.M.  
$5.00 PER PERSON or $10.00 A FAMILY  
RACQUETS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM THE CENTRE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
PHONE CHRISTIE ON  
0408 721 252  
THIS IS A FUN FAMILY EVENT – ALL WELCOME
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is Tolerance.

Tolerance is a skill, which can reduce conflict. It is an ongoing process. Tolerance encourages us to respect opinions and practices, which differ from our own, and to be free of bigotry. Tolerance encourages understanding and appreciation of individual differences, minimizes generalisations and helps combat prejudice and discrimination.

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

Jayda Liddell, Sarah Stone, Charlotte Whyle, Cadence Armstrong,
Emily Woods, Harry Dietrich and Aaron Petric.
Winner of the care box was Darcy Young

Awards for reading Natasha Hassell, Chloe Hildebrand, Zarlina Maynard,
Brodie Sposito, Summer McIver, Hamish McLeod & Declan Begley.

Congratulations Everyone!

HEAD LICE ARE MAKING A REAPPEARANCE AT SCHOOL.
COULD PARENTS PLEASE CHECK CHILDREN’S HAIR AND, IF REQUIRED
TREAT YOUR CHILD/REN’S HAIR. THANK YOU.
Teaching and Learning Updates

“The Walker Learning Approach”
Investigative and Personalised Learning

Our school community is committed to providing a 21st Century education for children that promotes children’s intrinsic motivation to be “life-long learners, to have academic confidence and a love of learning.” This is embedded and supported by the Walker Learning Approach (WLA).

The philosophy and pedagogy of the WLA is based on student empowerment, engagement and ownership alongside teacher direction, scaffolding and instruction.

St Francis’ school’s Vision and Mission and Graduate Outcomes are valued statements that are embedded within our learning philosophy that guides the practice of all staff working within the school community. As a school community we have identified the key values of teaching and learning but, most importantly, have identified the needs of our students.

The WLA pedagogy is the “how” of all teaching and learning and must reflect the philosophy of the school. The school believes that the WLA is a pedagogy that supports the whole school philosophy, but most importantly creates independent and resilient learners that are motivated to take ownership of their learning.

Teachers support students to achieve their academic best through investigative and personalised learning.

The WLA is a holistic framework that looks at the learning and development of the ‘whole child’. The Developmental Domains - Emotional, Social, Cognitive, Language and Physical are an important element of the approach and are visually displayed in the classroom as goals. The developmental domain learning goals are highly specific so that measurement can be recorded during the teacher’s observations. These goals are aligned to AusVels as is the entire Walker Learning Approach.

Please feel free to contact our school for further information regarding Walker Learning or any other teaching and learning question you may have.

IN OUR STUDENT’S WORDS

Grade 1/2M
This Term Grade 1/2Mestrom will be going to St Mary of the Angels to learn some different sports. The Year 10’s will be teaching us those skills. We had our first session last week and our next one was today. Can you believe we went in our PJ’s! We all love going there because they teach us in a fun way and environment. Fingers crossed we get better and better at our skills.

Thank you for teaching us!

Grade 1/2 Mestrom.

St Francis School Fair
On the 11 of October, 2015 it was our school fair. There were heaps of things like a jumping castle, ferris wheel, go carts, petting zoo and heaps of shops like clothing, food, lollies and lots more. My favourite thing was the jumping castle because we played wrestles and it was the funniest.
My big sister was working at the cake stall with her friend for a little bit and my mum was working at the craft stall. My cousins, Hunter and Taylor came down and we went in to the petting zoo. Taylor loved the guinea pigs and Hunter loved the moo moo cow and the turtles (that’s what he likes to call them). My favourite was the ducklings and they were so cute. When I picked up the lizard it pooed and peed all over me. It was DISGUSTING.

Did you know that nearly every single student went to the school fair? And the winner of the lolly in the jar was Lachy Russel. His guess was 836 and the amount of lollies in the jar were 838.

At the school fair there was a kid singing. It was Mrs Booth’s son. He was a really good singer and he didn’t want any money. He did it for free.

There was a nail polish, face painting and hair spray. When my little sister come back from there she had three different coloured stars in her hair. One was blue, one was green and one was yellow. They had lots of different hair-dos. They had stripes, dots, stars and just normal with different colour hair. By Dylan Madden Gr 5/6R

**Inter-school Sports**

The sports were on Friday the 9th of October. The sun was out, the nerves were rattling. It was a good day for the kids to be out doing sports. St Francis Primary School, Nathalia Primary School, St Joseph Numurkah and Numurkah Primary School were all participating in the inter school sports for 2015. Mr Ross and Mrs Baker took St Francis 5/6 down to Nathalia’s Recreation Reserve. 5A 5B 6A 6B where the groups that the students went in to do their sports.

Every group had a leader that was with them for every activity. At the canteen they provided us with icy poles drink and snacks for the children to eat, a BIG shout out to the parents for doing that for us. The activities we did were sprints, hurdles, high jump, triple jump, long jump, shot put, discus, distance and to finish off we had division 1 and division 2 relay teams for each grade so we had Yr 6 division 1 and Yr 6 division 2 and the same for Yr 5.

Congratulations to the Yr 6 division 1 team; Will Sheehan, Jake Brown, Indiya Parker and Sara Kolundzija for coming second in their relay. Last year St. Francis Primary School won the inter school sports shield and we were lucky enough to win it again this year. Great job 5/6. 2015 inter school sports was very well set out and performed. Unfortunately it was the Year 6’s last year doing inter-school sports at St Francis. I would like to thank all the teachers for organising the sports and a big thank you to Doug Cobbledick for helping the students do their sports and for helping set up the sports.

And most of all Congratulations to the 5/6 students for trying their best and winning the inter school sports for 2015. I’d like to also congratulate St. Francis 3/4 students for doing their best and also winning their shield again. Thank you Mr Ross and Mrs Baker for taking us down to the sports and for encouraging us to do our best and most of all participate. WELL DONE EVERYBODY for the effort that you put in to competing and for supporting other schools. Good Job. By Indiya Parker 5/6R

**This week in French**

Bonjour tout le monde, Bienvenue.

At the start of Term 4 we have been learning about time and numbers. This week we learnt the French numbers. We also learnt that the French time is really different to ours. we drew clocks and put on our own time.

Some French language -
Quart- quarter- almost the same as ours
Heure – hour
Moins- minus

By Jess Legge Gr 5/6W
COMMUNITIES IN HARMONY: A Choral Spectacular

A concert of beautiful choral singing, featuring the choirs of Echuca's very own River Voices, as well as guest Melbourne choir, Excelsis.

7.30pm, Saturday 7 November 2015
The Paramount
392 High Street, Echuca
Admission: $15  Ph: (03) 5482 3399