Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

Last Thursday 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 real 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 half. It was wonderful see so many parents, nannas, pops, aunts, uncles and friends turn out ‘en-mass’ to visit our learning spaces and say hello to teachers and to meet ‘the new kid on the block’. It was wonderful to meet many new faces and to casually socialize with members of the community. Having the opportunity to do this is very important especially when it helps 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 jumping castle and ensured our night was a great success. Your work is much appreciated and has certainly not gone unnoticed. We raised a combined total of over $800 for our school and will be put towards funding improvements to school facilities. Thank you.

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.

Suggestion Box
At Hello Night we launched our ‘Suggestion Box’ campaign. A flyer was distributed asking for people to think of ways we can generate renewed enthusiasm for social and fundraising events and to make a suggestion of something that could help make this happen. We are very interested in your opinions and would like to give everyone the chance to suggest any social events or fundraisers that you consider our community could initiate for the coming year.

For those who did not receive a flyer at hello night, one will go home in tonight’s newsletter and separate forms can be picked up from the office. A ‘suggestion box’ has been set up in the office for returned forms to be placed. Suggestions will be considered and reviewed by our parent body and a P&F community meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

Opening School Mass
St Francis PS celebrated their Opening School Mass yesterday morning. It was a wonderful celebration and beautifully prepared by Ronnie Williams our extraordinary DP / REC. Thank you to Fr. Chris for presiding our mass and sharing your pearls of wisdom yet again. Fr Chris spoke about the importance of being strong in our minds, our body and our spirit. ‘Being strong’ in terms of saying no to temptation to do or say the wrong thing was a message we can all relate to, especially when it comes to bullying or putting others down.

Congratulations to all of our students for the way they participated at mass. For many it was a new experience and our senior students did a magnificent job leading by example and being ‘strong’ in their leadership. Thank you to our parents and parishioners who could come along to help us celebrate our opening school mass.

Our school captains: Will Sheehan, Cassie Brooks, Billy Brinson and Rebecca Williams were presented with their school badges and commissioned as our school leaders for 2015. We had a great gathering of parents to help us celebrate this important event.

Grade 6 Leadership Day
The Grade 6 Leadership day for our cluster will be held this Friday, 13th February at St Mary’s Primary School, Mooroopna. This is an excellent opportunity for our year 6 students to listen to leaders
from around our community, connect with other Year 6 students and further develop their own leadership skills. Our students, together with Veronica Williams and Tam Perry, will travel by bus to Mooroopna departing at 8:55am and returning to school by 3:00pm. Students are reminded to bring their morning tea, lunch and drink bottle. Students are asked to wear their school uniform and remember to bring their school hat.

Prep Rest Days
These days are gold. Our ‘Preppies’ have been doing a magnificent job attending to all of the complexities associated with coming to school every day and deserve a mid week break! Please remember the first 4 Wednesdays are ‘rest days’.


School Board Meeting ~ Wed 4th Feb
Our school Board gathered for the first time last Wednesday night. It was a very informal gathering at the Bridge Hotel for a meal and drinks. A majority of board members and partners gathered to socialise, chat and to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere and together we had a fantastic night of fun and laughter. The consensus was that … “it was a nice way to start the year before the more important issues are tackled and there should be more of it”. Something we will seriously consider.

Bluearth 2015
Our Bluearth program will commence this Friday 13th. Brendan McMullin will be our facilitator again this year and will conduct Bluearth lessons on a fortnightly basis. For those not familiar with Bluearth: it is a health, fitness and well being program aimed at providing students with the opportunity to engage in fun activities that promote the development of physical, social and personal skills and competencies. Teachers are trained and accredited in the program over a 12-month period. Several of our teachers will be undertaking Bluearth training this year.

Best Wishes for the coming week,

Chris Summers

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.

Uniforms ~ Thank you.
There has been a huge improvement already. Thank you to the way families have ensured your child has returned to school wearing the correct uniform. Wearing the correct uniform expresses pride and value in our school and of our expectations.

SHOES: Just a reminder about shoes ~ Please no coloured sneakers or runners to be worn on days other than your child/s sport days.
Please ensure your child wears black shoes (either black runners or lace up shoes) on days that are not **sport days**. No vans or volleys.

If you have any concerns about uniforms please contact us at school.

**CARE TEAM MEALS REQUIRED:**
The Care Team freezer is very low. If you were able to make a meal, slice or biscuits suitable for freezing, it would be appreciated. Having meals in our Care Team freezer enables the Care Team to help those in our school community who may, for whatever reason, need assistance.

**SHROVE TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2015:**
As usual we will be selling pancakes next Tuesday, 17 February 2015 for $1.00 a pancake. Funds raised go to Caritas Australia. **Donations of shake and bake pancake mix will be gratefully accepted for Tuesday, 17 February 2015.** 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 Internationals, an international confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations working to build a better world for the poorest of the poor in over 200 countries and territories.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES TERM 1:**
We have some school closure dates later this term:

- **Tuesday, 3 March 2015** – Nathalia Learning Community PD Day.
- **Monday, 16 March 2015** – Cluster School Closure Day.

**NEW STAFF MEMBER:**
We warmly welcome Lisa Booth to our staff – Lisa will be working in the Year 3/4 classroom on Wednesday and Thursdays.

**CHANGE OF HOURS FOR OFFICE STAFF:**
In 2015, Louise Robertson’s hours will be 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and Veronica Daniel’s hours will be 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Louise will still be spending time in the 5/6 classroom from 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and then in the finance office for the remainder of the day. Veronica will be at the front office as normal.

**LOST PROPERTY:**
A lovely pair of size 10 pyjamas have been left at school – see photo to the left. If these are your child’s please see Lonky at the front office.

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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.
Numurkah Saturday Junior Soccer

Expressions of Interest

All boys and girls in the following age groups:
Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 mixed teams.
Age as at 1 January 2015.

Training session held at Numurkah Wednesday afternoon.
Games are at McEwen or CHAS Reserve, Shepparton on Saturday.

Registration date in March TBA.

Cost $95.00 for 15 week season from April to August.
All welcome.

Any enquiries please contact Ange Gibbon 0419 109 949 or Jacqui Hughes 0411 045 291 or email numurkahjuniorsoccer@gmail.com

ASD CLINIC

An afternoon with Dan Petro
Sunday, 8 March 2015 2pm-5pm – Cost $15.00

Description:
An afternoon of listening and learning about strategies to help parents/carers/teachers and supports of children/teens in the autism spectrum or with ADD/ADHD or other similar diagnosis.

Venue:
Monsignor Bones Hall
Knight Street, Shepparton.

Contact Details:
Trish Edgar 0478225 379 or www.trybooking.com

Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club

Upcoming Tournament

Junior Round Robin Tournament

Date: Sunday, 15th February 2015, 9am

Events: Boys & Girls Singles
10 & under; 13 & under; 16 & under;
Age taken on day of Tournament;
Cost: Singles: $12

Entries: Entries close Thursday 12th February

Canteen: Operating with snacks and lunch available
To enter and for all other enquiries contact
Mark Mills, on 0429307373 or mmill11@gmail.com
Just send through name and age of each participant to enter
Your Advantage Tennis reserves all rights to make changes at anytime.

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