Week 3
TERM 1, 2016

St Francis School

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

Prayer of the week

Praying Lent This Year

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

As we lead into the Lenten season Pope Francis’ message is ... “In a broken, fragmented and polarized world, ... to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all our brothers and sisters in the one human family.”

Pope Francis

His message is quite simple; communication and open dialogue is key to getting along. It is a message we constantly reinforce with our students at school and our own children at home, well at least try to.

Appropriately Caritas’ Project Compassion theme for 2016 is ‘Learning More, Creating Change’. Through communication we can learn more about each other and create a change that is inclusive and just. Our Project Compassion Launch at Monday’s assembly highlighted this and will continue to drive discussions and learning in our Religious Education lessons throughout the season of Lent.

Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday our social justice team together with our amazing welfare officer, Tam Perry, organised pancakes for students and staff to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. A gold coin donation ensured a healthy kick-start to our annual Caritas Project Compassion Campaign raising over $190 and of course the yummy pancakes filled many little tummies before recess. Thank you to Tam, our social justice team and volunteers for helping out.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants to the accompaniment of the words “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel”. Lent represents the time spent by Jesus fasting for 40 days in the desert, where he endured temptation. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting for 40 days as preparation for Easter.

On Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday by having a beautiful prayer service in the gathering space. I was very proud of the way our students participated with reverence and enthusiasm. Thank you to Veronica Williams our REC/Catholic Identity Leader for coordinating our service.

Combined Opening School Mass

Yesterday we celebrated our inaugural Opening School Mass for both SMOTA and St Francis and from the response and community spirit generated, I’m confident it’ll become a long last event. It was a great opportunity for both schools and communities to connect and celebrate under the one umbrella as people of faith.

Our school captains: Mak Hindmarsh, Kate Francis, Nikita Pawlowicz and Darcy Backway were presented with their school badges and commissioned as our school leaders for 2016.

This was a significant moment for our young leaders. The badge ceremony not only highlighted the important responsibility our captains have leading our school but also displayed the value and respect we have for leadership which continues throughout our formative schooling and beyond; a very prominent moment for our students, their parents and for all those in attendance.

Parent Information Night ~ ‘Proactive Parenting’ Next Tuesday 16th Feb

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Walker Learning Approach that we are adopting at St Francis and to listen to parenting experts Cathy Walker and Kathy Murray as they offer tips and advice for parents regarding the way students learn.
For catering purposes please fill in the below attendance sheet to indicate your availability for this evening.


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

**Three – Way Parent Teacher / Student Interviews ~ Thursday March 3rd.**

Our assessment and reporting schedule for 2016 is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Reporting Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3-Way Interviews or Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mid – year Written Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-Way Interviews or Conferences</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>End of Year Written Report</td>
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This year we have decided to change the format of our Parent / Teacher Interviews meaning students will be in attendance at the interviews. Research continues to highlight the importance of working together to bring about the best learning outcomes for our students. Three-way Interviews will allow positive discussions regarding progress, goal setting and areas for improvement.

Please telephone the school office to book your parent/teacher interviews.

**YEMP ~ Youth Engagement Mentoring Program - Commences Tuesday March 1st.**

Last year a new initiative titled YEMP ~ Youth, Engagement, Mentoring Program was organized through the Nathalia and District Community Association. Due to it’s overwhelming success YEMP will be on offer for all year 6 students throughout 2016.

The YEMP program aims to empower the skills and confidence of young people in the community whilst fostering positive relationships with various local organisations. Permission forms and information has been sent home to year 6 parents.

**Commissioning of our Fire Carriers**

Our new fire carriers for 2016 will be commissioned at this coming assembly on Monday.

**School Voucher Raffle Tickets**

A reminder that all sold raffle tickets need to be returned to school by no later that 26 February 2016 as the raffle will be drawn at Assembly on Monday, 29 February 2016.

**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.

Have a wonderful week everyone

**Chris Summers**

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**Walker Learning Information Night ~ Feb 16th 7PM**

I will / won’t (please circle) be attending the Walker Learning Parent Information evening on Tuesday 16th February, 7PM.

Name:
Our School News

SOCIAL SKILLS BLITZ

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

Tennille Kautai, Sarah Stone, Taylor Wilson, Tom Butler, Ally Francis, Indianna McCabe-Jackson, Katelyn Halden

Winner of the care box was Ally Francis.

Congratulations Everyone!

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.