Dear Parents and Friends,

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the very special celebration on Friday evening - the girls raised more than $13,000 – what a fabulous achievement – more on the back page.

Shirley and I spent Friday at Melbourne University with colleagues from around the state planning for the learning and teaching of language and culture for 2015 and beyond. We are so excited about the provisions for teaching French we are putting in place, and looking forward to seeing the great learning opportunities which will flow from our ‘Leading Languages Strategy’! As a Catholic School we are well placed to support our students to value, respect and engage with language and culture in their own lives and to interact with others across linguistic borders. We are committed to creating a culture of learning which approaches language, culture and learning with respect, empathy, commitment, enthusiasm and personal responsibility.

Language learning is so much more than simply learning a language! It allows us to explore and discover other ways of being, of living, of thinking and of communicating. The French language, the countries where French is spoken and the lives and cultures of people who speak French provide a rich and fertile ground for nurturing in children a genuine interest in the wider world.

At St Francis we commit to the teaching and learning of language and culture through the provision of French recognising:

- We have an experienced and enthusiastic French teacher who will lead our language program.
- Introducing French at primary school harnesses the genuine enthusiasm that young people have for learning and both benefits from, and contributes to, students developing literacy, oracy and communication skills.
- French is spoken in over 40 countries worldwide.
- 60% of English words have been taken from the French language.
- French is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, from regions as far afield as Mauritius and Haiti, to the southern states of America, across the continent of Africa, and into Europe.
- In a world where overseas travel is frequent and desirable, French is useful.
- Learning a language opens up for our students a whole new and exciting world of places, people, cultures and language other than their own.

Claire Kelly

A prayer for the creative flow

Please allow me to have courage to live in this moment, So I can be a vessel for You to flow through, Let me embrace the unknown, Let me learn from my mistakes, Let me embrace looking different, or unique, Let me embrace being Me, Let me have the courage to live life creatively, write, talk, paint, draw and sing. Remind me that creativity is truly a gift from You the ultimate Creator, That creativity comes as natural to me as breathing, being, loving, Because in reality I am You.
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 2 our Social Skills Blitz was around Kindness. The following students were nominated by their peers as displaying positive behaviour last week:


At our assembly on Monday morning we acknowledged some wonderful achievements by some of our students:

Jack Myers: for presenting his winning speech at the Lions Club Convention in Echuca on Sunday, 19 October 2014.

Annie Dietrich: for her fabulous efforts in raising funds for the NBCF and having her head shaved at the event – more details in the newsletter.

Abbey Bell, Mia Bell, Maddison Pawlowicz and Nikita Pawlowicz: for performing 5 songs at the NBCF fundraiser.

Sam Boyd, Ella Johns, Ella Brereton and Alyssa Fitzgerald: For attending the GV 9 x 4 exhibition at the Shepparton Art Museum where students art work from across the Goulburn Valley Deanery will be exhibited until 16 November 2014. Our own students’ artwork is exhibited so please go and have a look when you are next in Shepparton.

Will Sheehan & Breanne Walpole: for representing our school at the Regional Athletics on Friday, 17 October 2014 in the 200 and 800 metres respectively.

Congratulations Everyone!!
JUMP START:
The Jump Start program for our 2015 Prep students commences this Wednesday, 22 October 2014 at 2.20 p.m. in our Prep/Grade 1 classroom. Jump Start is an introduction to school for our 2015 Prep students and they will participate in a number of different classroom activities over the duration of the Jump Start program. We are looking forward to welcoming our Jump Start students to our school on Wednesday.

COMMUNITY READING DAY:
This Thursday, 23 October 2014 is the Nathalia Community Reading Day. Our Prep, Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 students will be participating in the Community Reading Day. Our students will walk up to Blake Street where they will listen to books being read to them by members of the community. Students are encouraged to dress up for the day as a character from a book – perhaps they could wear the costume that they had for book week.

SWITCH OFF DAY
Our Gr 6 sustainability leaders have organized “Switch Off Day” for next Monday, 28 October 2014 and students are encouraged to wear casual clothes to school for a gold coin donation. The school will be turning off all lighting, heating/cooling and computers! Wow, this might give our students a taste of what school was like in the 1970s! Hopefully staff will still be allowed to have their morning cuppa!

OPENING DOORS FUNDRAISER:
The Fire Carriers are holding their major fundraiser for the year on Thursday, 6 November 2014. The Open Doors Foundation helps Aboriginal children and their families to access uniforms, books and all other educational expenses.

On this day we have planned a lot of different activities such as:
**CASUAL CLOTHES DAY – WEAR Black, Red, White, Yellow, Blue or Green for a Gold coin donation.**

- Guess the lollies in the jar at 50c a guess.
- Zooper Doopers
- Hairspray, and nails at 50c each.
- We will be making a coin line so any spare change would be greatly appreciated.
- A colouring competition which is attached to the newsletter. These need to be returned by Friday 31st October. Prizes to be awarded 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in Junior, Middle and Senior Units
- An Aboriginal short story writing/poetry competition. This is to be no more than 100 words in length. This also needs to be returned by Friday 31st October. Prizes to be awarded to 1st in Junior, Middle and Senior Units.

A SOUP KITCHEN IN NATHALIA
Members of the Nathalia community including St Mary of the Angels and Nathalia Secondary College, in conjunction with “People Supporting People”, Shepparton, would like to begin a soup kitchen in Nathalia. The soup kitchen would take place on a Wednesday evening, down by the creek across from the Bridge Hotel. We are looking for people who would like to volunteer themselves for a roster.

Those on the roster will be responsible for collecting the BBQ (has wheels) from Home Timber and Hardware, setting up the BBQ, collecting the food from the IGA and butcher, cooking the sausages, serving, socializing with people there, and cleaning up at the end and returning the BBQ. The time commitment will run from approximately 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you are interested in helping to deliver this service, please contact Michael Ross during school hours on 5866 2222 or email: mr@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
St Mary of the Angels Secondary College is organising Nathalia’s Carols By Candlelight and they have asked our school to provide a singing group to sing three songs. A note is coming home asking for those students who wish to be a part of Carols to commit to attending the Carols and the lunch time practices. The note will also contain details of the songs we are singing and the practice times. We are very excited to be part of what will be a fabulous event and hope that students and families are likewise happy to attend and participate in this event.
On Friday, 17 October 2014 a fundraiser was held for the National Breast Cancer Foundation at St Francis Primary School. Three very brave young ladies volunteered to have their heads shaved. When they first embarked on their endeavor to raise funds for the NBCF they hoped to raise $1,500.00. These three lovely girls have raised approximately $13,000.00 – what a simply fantastic achievement. So we say a huge congratulations to Annie, Teashia and Kloe and hope you enjoy the photos below.