Key Dates

October:
30th Free Sausage Sizzle at school – .

November:
2nd Bishops holiday – School closure
3rd Melb Cup holiday – School closure
9th St Francis Community Group Meeting
3.30 pm Library
10th Jump Start
17th Open Doors Fundraiser
4th Jump Start Reconciliation
7 pm St Mary’s Church
20th Prep/Gr1/Gr2 Excursion
23rd School Closure – Staff PD
24th Jump Start School Board meeting
26th 27th 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.

Prayer of the week

'I Am'

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the bread of life.'
Satisfy our hunger for God, we pray to you.

All: Nourish us with the bread of life.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the light of the world.'
Light up our darkness with your message of hope, we pray to you.

All: Enlighten us with your word.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the gate of the sheepfold.'
Lead us to your truth and peace, we pray to you.

All: Guide us in the ways of peace.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the Good Shepherd.'
Gather us into your fold, we pray to you.

All: Identify us as your disciples.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'
Awaken us from the sleep of death, we pray to you.

All: Urge us forward into new ways of seeing.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.'
Show us the face of God, we pray to you.

All: Gather from us a harvest of goodness.

Reading

John 15:8–12

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’
The Best Part of Me
by our Foundation Students

The best part of me are my hands because I can make things with them.

Jayda

The best part of me are my ears because they help me to hear.

Bella

The best part of me is my brain because it makes me think.

Gus

The best part of me is my whole body because I like it.

Mitchell

The best part of me is my heart because I can love people.

Lexie

The best part of me are my eyes because they help me to see.

Lachie
Dear Parents and Friends of St Francis,

On Tuesday I had the privilege of visiting another school in our diocese as a panel member of the validation team reviewing their teaching and learning. It’s always good to visit other schools to see how different programs operate and reflect on our own teaching and learning practices of which we are constantly striving to improve. Although it was good to see another school in action it is also reassuring to know we are on the right track in terms of employing best teaching practices inclusive of providing opportunities for our students to learn. Our approach to inquiry-based learning provides our students with a variety of choice whilst focusing on children interest levels. Adoptions to classroom structure and learning spaces provide a stimulating environment for engaging and for rich learning experiences to occur. These practices are not new and evidence suggest they give students the best opportunity to develop a love for learning, independence and social skills necessary for building and maintaining healthy relationships.

Our school closure day on November 23rd provides our entire staff with the opportunity to listen to and learn from Kathy Walker a leading expert in the field of Inquiry Based Learning. Her approach is the preferred method/pedagogy we have adopted here at St Francis and will drive our teaching and learning. Formalised targeted teaching of specific skills such as reading, writing, learning letter sounds, mathematical concepts, Religious Education and everything else in between will always be at the forefront of what we do and naturally become part of our Inquiry Based approach. For further information regarding our approaches to teaching and learning please contact the school.

Victorian Schools Athletics Championships ~ Go Mia and Gus!
Congratulations and best wishes to Gus Bramwell and Mia Bell for making it through to the Victorian Schools and Athletic Championships being held in Melbourne on Monday. Gus will be competing in the Shot Put and Mia in the 800m and Long Jump. This is an outstanding achievement, as both Mia and Gus will be competing against students from across the state. We wish both Mia and Gus every success.

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. 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!

Date Changed ~ Gr 3/4 Camp Billabong Ranch
Due to unforeseen circumstances the dates for the grade 3/4 camp to Billabong Ranch, Echuca have changed to Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Car Parking Issues
In relation to the relocation of the Bus Zone sign in front of our school, please be advised this was a decision that was made without appropriate consultation and authorization with our school.

Due to an increase in enrolments at St Mary’s of the Angel for the coming year, the issue of more buses and where to safely drop off and collect students has become the subject of concern of which all parties are currently in discussion and negotiation.

Although we are unable to move the sign back to its normal position, we have been able to make a satisfactory compromise.

In the short term the local police have been contacted to ensure unnecessary infringements will not be made, however please understand this does not condone parking within illegal boundaries.

It is a very frustrating and unwarranted situation we currently face and is something we are working hard to rectify. Thank you for your understanding.
Principal Writing Awards ~ Week 3

Grade 1/2 Mestrom ~ Harry Morgan

Grade 3/4 Miller ~ Shannyn Pengilly

Congratulations Harry and Shannyn! Your stories were very entertaining and showed great style. Keep up the great work with your writing everyone!! 😊

Chris Summers

Other School Happenings…

Staff Professional Development

On Wednesday Brodie Ross and Karyn Miller attended a PD day in Shepparton regarding Making Jesus Real (MJR). MJR is an approach to complement our Teaching and Learning of Religious Education throughout the curriculum. The Making Jesus Real program is centred around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those people around us. We are His representatives and our actions should reflect His values. Jesus also made the comment that we are part of his family and that the ways we treat others should be reflective of the way we would treat Jesus.

Cricket 8’s

Yesterday our senior students participated in a Cricket 8’s competition held at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve. Many schools within the Moira District participated and by all accounts our students had a wonderful day.

Tennis Clinic

For Sport on Wednesday our 3-6 students enjoyed a Tennis clinic held at school. Mark Mills, a renowned tennis coach, shared his expertise and skills. Thank you Brodie for organizing this experience for our kids.

Summer Uniform…a reminder to parents – see photos to the right:

Quote of the Week:
‘Take the time today appreciate someone who does something you take for granted everyday”.

ZOOPER DOOPER’S - -TERM 4

“Quench your thirst”

Friday Lunchtime

.50 cents each (Limit of 2 per child)

Some funnies!

Q. What animal can jump higher than the Sydney Harbour Bridge?
A. All animals, because bridges can’t jump!

Q. Why do kangaroo mums hate bad weather?
A. Their joey’s have to play inside!

Q. What is a Koala’s favourite drink?
A. A Coca Koala!

Youth Engagement Mentoring Program

Nathalia Community House is pleased to announce it has engaged Alan Thorpe
Dardi Munwurru - Strong Spirit one of Victoria’s most experienced Indigenous Family and Youth worker.

Alan Thorpe was an Australian rules footballer and a media commentator. He played for Sydney Swans and Footscray in the Australian Football League (AFL).

Alan Thorpe is a founding member of The Marmgook Footy Show, which started in the 1990s as a radio show on 3KND and the National Indigenous Radio Service network. In 2007 it moved to a TV show on National Indigenous Television (NITV) and Melbourne’s Channel 31, and moved to ABC2 in 2011.

The Sessions are:

Tuesday 27th October 2015
17 Harcourt Street Nathalia

Primary Students: 10.00am to 11.30am
Secondary Student: 1.00pm to 2.30pm
FIRE CARRIER NEWS
We are having our annual Open Doors Fundraiser on Tuesday 17th November, 2015. The Open Doors Foundation is an organisation that assists Aboriginal families with the costs of education, so they can send their children to school. We are asking that everyone comes dressed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colours – red, yellow, black, blue, green and white. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.
During recess we will be selling:
Aboriginal wristbands with chocolate balls for $3.00
Nail polish/ face painting for 50c each
Zooper Doopers for 50c each.

Also we are planning to run a dreamtime story (500 words or less) and a freehand drawing competition with an Aboriginal theme. Get your words writing and your pencils drawing. Prizes will be awarded for the best story and drawing in the following categories: Prep – Two, Three – Four, and Five-Six. These are due in Friday 13th November. They can be handed into the front office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO SCHOOL CANTEEN NEXT FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2015
Building Children’s Positive Self Esteem and Resilience

Self-esteem and resilience are best promoted in the early years of development through an integrated approach with opportunities related to real life situations. Discreet programs that are offered as a separate part of the day are not appropriate for young children and have limited effectiveness. Early Life Foundations are increasingly being asked to talk about resilience paradoxically however there is less and less opportunity for children of today to become resilient.

Research tells us that those people who are most likely to be intrinsically happy and successful in life will possess a positive self-concept (self esteem + self competence) and reflect resilience.

Self Concept

An individual’s self-concept is developed from their self-esteem and their self-competence. **Self-esteem** is how we believe ourselves to be most of the time. That we have a sense that we are okay people, we are lovable, respected and worthwhile. A realistic view of who we are.

That we have a realistic view of who we are:

- To feel good about who you are, intrinsic worth
- Feelings about self

**Self Competence** is related to our confidence to undertake tasks and understanding of our strengths and challenges - what we can do, what we need to work toward. Self-competence is related to our ability to affirm ourselves for our strengths and challenges.

Strategies for Self Concept Enhancement

- Separate the child from their behaviour
  - Never label the child as bad, but the behaviour as inappropriate
- Always look for a moment of “goodness” – gentle affirming – don’t over do it
- Affirm your child and how much you like them and love them
- Affirm children for who they are, not just what they do
- Be aware of your own attitudes, biases, non verbal and verbal messages – think before you think; don’t project your own anxiousness or worries
- Provide opportunities for child to assume some level of responsibility
- Encourage some democratic decision making
- Be encouraging – not praise not everything is brilliant!! Acknowledge and affirm the attempt and the process (the outcome is what you want to focus on).
This week, our Positive Behaviour Blitz is **Kindness**.

Kindness is a value which we would like others to show to us, and which we should show to others. It is a basic act, which should be instinctive to human nature. Kindness is about being helpful, friendly and considerate. It may be shown in any number of ways from one small, insignificant act to large obvious overtures. It is an act whose only reward should be in the giving, expecting nothing in return.

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

*Kirily Fisher, Summer McIver, Zoe Cooper, Sara Galambos, Tom Butler, Ella Brereton and Marshal Doolan-Fisher.*

*Winner of the care box was Zander Quinn.*

*Awards for reading: Lachlan Russell, Matilda Flenley, Annabelle Flenley and Lexie Smith.*

*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.

**GASTRO**

Parents please note that Gastro is going around the school at the moment. According to the Department of Health Guidelines, students are not to return to school until a full 24 hours after their last vomit or loose bowel movement (i.e. if your child’s last vomit/loose bowel movement is in the middle of night your child must not come to school the next day). Please help to keep all our students healthy by adhering to this guideline.
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